



CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times
FRANCISCO ARELLANO works on an irrigation system for the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation.

COLORADO RIVER IN CRISIS

The river is approaching a breaking point — its over-tapped reservoirs dropping as years of drying have taken a toll at its source in the Rockies. As states are pressured to reduce usage, the crisis is transforming the Southwest.

SEE SECTION AA, AS WELL AS OUR COVERAGE ONLINE, INCLUDING PODCAST EPISODES AND A VIDEO SERIES, AT LATIMES.COM/COLORADO-RIVER-IN-CRISIS.



Digital signs may light up the town

Foes of Metro's plan say rotating ads — many 48 feet wide — will distract drivers.

BY DAVID ZAHNISER AND RACHEL URANGA

L.A.'s biggest transit agency has long been in the advertising game, renting out space on its buses, trains and even elevators at rail stations.

Now, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is looking to take those efforts to a new level by putting up as many as 93 billboard-size digital signs across the city — despite warnings from critics who say the rotating images are ugly and will distract drivers.

The agency's transit communications and advertising program, approved last week by Metro's board of directors, would bring digital signs to dozens of streets and freeways in downtown, the Westside, the San Fernando Valley and other areas.

The program has been billed as a way to make traffic move more smoothly by giving drivers public safety alerts and information on [See Signs, A9]



Bloomberg
HEALTH workers guard the front of a Beijing residential compound in November. COVID restrictions and lockdowns exacerbated China's economic slowdown.

Burned-out professionals try nomadic life in China

Rejecting societal pressure to work hard and buy a home, some follow new dreams.

BY STEPHANIE YANG

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Chu Fei thought she was doing everything right in life.

At 30, she lived in Beijing and worked at one of the world's largest tech firms. She had attended China's top school, Peking University, and gotten a master's degree at Stanford. She felt the same pressure as

anyone else to work hard, buy a home and settle down.

But last year, the striving that came so instinctively suddenly lost its meaning. She was exhausted by 12-hour workdays and long commutes, then nightmarish pandemic lockdowns. None of it seemed worth the financial payoff, the promise of which dwindled as the economy worsened.

"It just felt like my plan wouldn't work anymore," she said.

Stuck at home, burned out, with murmurs of layoffs at her company growing, Chu began to realize that she didn't really like her

work-driven life. So she started dreaming of a different one. In October, she quit her job, sold most of her possessions and moved to a provincial village some 800 miles from Beijing.

The growing aversion to conventional expectations — build a career, get married, buy a home, have children — is discouraged by the ruling Communist Party, which prizes social stability.

But China's economic slowdown, jarring after years of supercharged growth and exacerbated by harsh COVID restrictions, has forced many to put their [See China, A4]

'I thought it was a Chinese firework.'

'After that, you realize, "No, it's wrong. It's not." '

'My life will end here.'

How a Lunar New Year's Eve celebration ended in terror

By Summer Lin, Brittney Mejia and Rebecca Ellis

The four smiling women pose before a festive backdrop, with its outsize clinking champagne glasses and clock about to strike midnight. They wear red, a symbol of good luck.

Shally wears flared black pants decorated with crystals. The 57-year-old has on a bob-cut wig "to make it special." This is a Lunar New Year's Eve party, after all.

An hour after that photo was taken, around 10:20 p.m., a 72-year-old man walked into Star Ballroom Dance Studio armed with a semiautomatic pistol. As he started spraying bullets, dancers confused the gunfire with fireworks.

But people began dropping to the floor. Screams rang out.

From her vantage point, hiding under a table, Ren could see a "very long" gun and the shooter in dark clothing.

The 57-year-old had a single thought: "My life will end here."

When the gunfire stopped, 10 people had been killed. Another died in a hospital.

Two of the women in the photo had been shot. One died.

The attack shattered the dance community of Monterey Park, a storied hub of Southern California's Chinese community.

Accounts from witnesses inside, many who asked not to be identified by their full names, paint a clearer picture of the evening's horror, as dozens gathered to celebrate the most important holiday of the year.

[See New Year's Eve, A12]

Claims of fraud, threats, poisoning
Records provide insight into Huu Can Tran's paranoid worldview over the decades. CALIFORNIA, B1

Librarians thrust into culture wars

As conservatives push to ban books, many in profession feel vilified and under siege.

BY JEFFREY FLEISHMAN

In her time as a Texas school librarian, Carolyn Foote watched the image of her profession veer from the stereotype of "shrinking violets behind spectacles" cataloging titles to "pedophiles and groomers" out to pollute the minds of the nation's youth.

"Librarians came from a climate of being so appreciated to hearing this message that we're reviled," said Foote, co-founder of #FReadom Fighters, an advocacy group for librarians

that has nearly 15,000 Twitter followers. "It was an astonishing turn of events."

A lot of librarians are asking themselves whether they want to remain in the profession, she added. "At least five people I know have retired early."

Once a comforting presence at story circle and book fairs, librarians have been condemned, bullied and drawn into battles over censorship as school and library boards face intensifying pressure from conservatives seeking to ban books exploring racial and LGBTQ themes. Those voices have grown stronger in red states since the pandemic, when parental groups opposed to mask mandates expanded their sights and became more involved in how and [See Librarians, A6]

Biden shores up 9th Circuit's liberal flank

BY KEVIN RECTOR

President Biden is leaving a distinct mark on the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, adding relatively young jurists of color who have bolstered the influential court's liberal flank.

So far, the president has appointed three Asian women, a Black woman and two Latino judges, all of whom have extensive experience in legal fields important to progressives, including civil, labor and voting rights law.

And he is poised to fill two additional seats on the circuit. The eight appointments during Biden's first term would be one more than President Obama made to the court during his two terms in office.

"It's clear that Biden is going to have a lasting influence on the 9th Circuit by virtue of who he has picked. He certainly has enhanced the diversity," said UC Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky.

Despite the president's leftward push, Chemerinsky

cautioned against overstating Biden's impact, saying he is trying to regain ground lost in an aggressive campaign by former President Trump to stack the nation's federal benches with conservative jurists.

"He has not shifted the ideological composition" of the traditionally liberal, California-based court as much as Trump did, Chemerinsky said. The circuit's judges, he said, are now "closely split between Democratic and Republican appointees."

The political makeup of

the judges who serve on the 9th Circuit, a massive jurisdiction that includes nine Western states and two U.S. territories, has broad implications. The court helps set legal precedent around some of the nation's most pressing cultural and political issues, including gun control, religious freedom, environmental regulations, and labor and tech policy.

During his single term in office, Trump managed to appoint 10 judges to the 9th Circuit, four of whom re- [See 9th Circuit, A7]

Seeking to calm Mideast unrest
Secretary of State denounces Israeli-Palestinian violence and expresses support for a two-state solution for peace. **WORLD, A3**

More fallout in Memphis killing
Three fire department members have been fired and two officers suspended in Tyre Nichols' beating. **NATION, A5**

Weather
Lots of sun. L.A. Basin: 65/41. **B6**

Crypto tycoon's bail has a twist
FTX founder's bond includes a home on land owned by Stanford University. **BUSINESS, A8**

'Laverne & Shirley' star dies
Cindy Williams played sweet, wide-eyed Shirley Feeney in the beloved sitcom. **OBITUARIES, B5**

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.

7 85944 00200 5

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

PERSPECTIVES

Biden to end COVID decrees on May 11

Move reflects nation's shift from emergency footing and toward normality as the virus becomes endemic risk.

BY ZEKE MILLER
AND AMANDA SEITZ

WASHINGTON — President Biden informed Congress on Monday that he will end the twin national emergencies for addressing COVID-19 on May 11, as most of the world has moved closer to normality nearly three years after they were first declared.

The move to end the national emergency and public health emergency declarations would formally restructure the federal coronavirus response to treat the virus as an endemic threat to public health that can be managed through agencies' normal authorities.

It comes as lawmakers have already ended elements of the emergencies that kept millions of Americans insured during the pandemic. Combined with the drawdown of most federal COVID-19 relief money, it would also shift the development of vaccines and treatments away from the direct management of the federal government.

Biden's announcement comes in a statement opposing resolutions being brought to the floor this week by House Republicans to bring the emergency to an immediate end. House Republicans are also gearing up to launch investigations on the federal government's response to COVID-19.

Then-President Trump's Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar first declared a public health emergency on Jan. 31, 2020, and Trump later declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency that March. The emergencies have been repeatedly extended by Biden since he took office in January 2021, and are set to expire in the coming months. The White House said Biden plans to extend them both briefly to end on May 11.

"An abrupt end to the emergency declarations would create wide-ranging chaos and uncertainty throughout the health care system — for states, for hospitals and doctors' offices, and, most importantly, for tens of millions of Americans," the Office of Management and Budget wrote in a Statement of Administration Policy.

More than 1.1 million people in the U.S. have died of COVID-19 since 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including about 3,700



GARY HERSHORN Getty Images

CORONAVIRUS testing sites, such as this one in New York in 2022, could become scarcer when the national COVID emergencies are lifted in May. Also, the costs of COVID-19 vaccines are expected to skyrocket.

‘The Biden administration is catching up to what a lot of people in the country have been experiencing.’

— LARRY LEVITT, executive vice president for health policy at Kaiser Family Foundation

last week.

Congress has already blunted the reach of the public health emergency that had the most direct impact on Americans, as political calls to end the declaration intensified. Lawmakers have refused for months to fulfill the Biden administration's request for billions more dollars to extend free COVID vaccines and testing. And the \$1.7-trillion spending package passed last year and signed into law by Biden put an end to a rule that barred states from kicking people off Medicaid, a move that is expected to see millions of people lose their coverage after April 1.

"In some respects, the Biden administration is catching up to what a lot of people in the country have been experiencing," said Larry Levitt, the executive vice president for health policy at Kaiser Family Foundation. "That said, hundreds of people a day are still dying from COVID."

Still, some things will change for Americans once the emergency expires, Levitt pointed out.

The costs of COVID-19 vaccines are also expected to skyrocket once the government stops buying them, with Pfizer saying it will charge as much as \$130 per

dose. Only 15% of Americans have received the recommended, updated booster that has been offered since the fall.

People with private insurance could have some out-of-pocket costs for vaccines, especially if they go to an out-of-network provider, Levitt said. Free at-home COVID tests will also come to an end. And hospitals will not get extra payments for

treating COVID patients.

Legislators did extend for another two years telehealth flexibilities that were introduced as COVID-19 hit, leading healthcare systems around the country to regularly deliver care by smartphone or computer.

The Biden administration had previously considered ending the emergency last year, but held off amid concerns about a potential

"winter surge" in cases and to provide adequate time for providers, insurers and patients to prepare for its end.

Officials said the administration would use the next three months to transition the response to conventional methods, warning that an immediate end to the emergency authorities "would sow confusion and chaos into this critical wind-down."

"To be clear, continuation of these emergency declarations until May 11 does not impose any restriction at all on individual conduct with regard to COVID-19," the administration said. "They do not impose mask mandates or vaccine mandates. They do not restrict school or business operations. They do not require the use of any medicines or tests in response to cases of COVID-19."

Case counts have trended downward after a slight bump over the winter holidays and are below levels seen over the last two winters — though the number of tests performed for the virus and reported to public health officials have sharply decreased.

On Monday, the World Health Organization said the coronavirus remains a global health emergency, even as a key advisory panel for the group found the pandemic may be nearing an inflection point where higher levels of immunity can lower virus-related deaths. China, for example, reported an unprecedented surge in December after lifting most of its COVID-19 restrictions.

Moments before the White House's announcement, Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) accused the president of unnecessarily extending the public health emergency to take action on issues such as forgiving some federal student loan debts.

"The country has largely returned to normal," Cole said Monday, introducing a GOP-backed bill calling for an end to the health emergency. "Everyday Americans have returned to work and to school with no restrictions on their activities. It is time that the government acknowledges this reality: The pandemic is over."

Miller and Seitz write for the Associated Press.

France unveils plan to tackle racism

‘There will be no impunity for hate,’ prime minister says.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Name it, act on it, sanction it.

That is the focus of a campaign against racism, antisemitism and discrimination of all kinds that was announced Monday by French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne.

The four-year plan starts with educating youth via a required yearly trip to a Hol-

ocaust memorial or other site that demonstrates the horrors racism can produce. It includes training teachers and civil servants about discrimination and toughening punishments. Arrest warrants will be issued to those who use freedom of expression for racist or antisemitic means.

"There will be no impunity for hate," Borne said as she presented her plan, which has 80 measures, at the Institute of the Arab World in Paris.

Tolerance is increasing, "but hate has reinvented itself," she said. "Our first challenge is to look squarely

at the reality of racism and antisemitism and cede nothing to those who falsify history, who rewrite our past, forgetting or deforming some pages."

Some who have worked for years at French organizations that fight racism and discrimination are skeptical about the plan, reject it outright or are reserving judgment.

Even Kaltoum Gachi, a lawyer and co-president of the anti-racist organization MRAP, which contributed a proposal to Borne, told the Associated Press that her group "will be vigilant to see if, concretely, [the plan] bears fruit."

France's government over 50 years has rolled out a series of plans to grapple with racism, antisemitism and discrimination, the latest in 2018. Still, an estimated 1.2 million people per year suffer as least one racist, antisemitic or xenophobic attack, according to the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights.

A rising far right and increasingly multicultural population have added new dimensions to the conflict.

Gachi told attendees that 25 years ago, her younger brother Kamel failed in numerous requests to get a job with an automaker — until he changed his name to Kevin. Just on Monday, Gachi told the Associated Press, she spoke with a youth who faced the same problem, a humiliating ex-

perience that leaves a lasting mark.

Borne said her plan will offer victims of racism and discrimination the possibility to file complaints outside of a police station, in a "partially anonymous" way. She did not elaborate. The plan will also make it "an aggravating circumstance" if someone in authority, such as a police officer, uses racist or discriminatory terms.

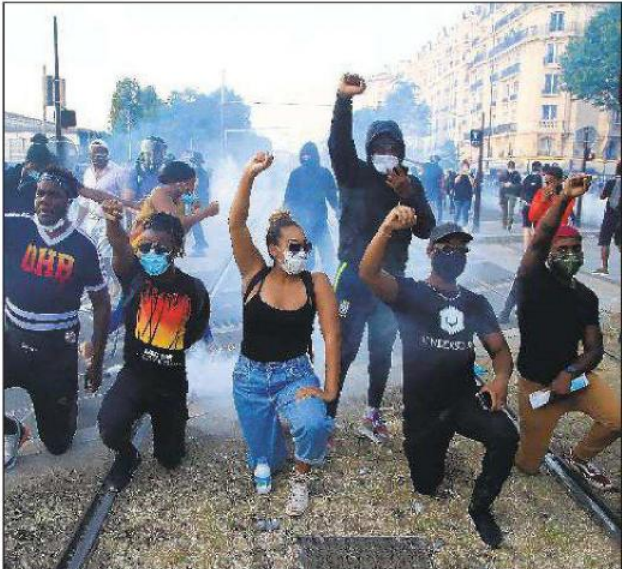
However, Borne's plan dodges some sensitive areas, notably failing to directly tackle discrimination and racial profiling within the nation's powerful police force.

Omer Mas Capitolin, a founder of the grassroots Community House for Supportive Development, said the new measures are not sufficient.

There is "a denial of systemic discrimination" not mentioned in the plan, he told the AP.

Mas Capitolin's organization is one of a group of non-governmental organizations that in 2021 launched a class-action suit against France's police force, contending that it propagates a culture leading to systemic discrimination in identity checks. But he noted that the bias extends beyond law enforcement to housing and jobs.

Mas Capitolin also criticized the timing of Borne's announcement on the same day that the Parliament opens debate on a hotly contested pension plan.



MICHEL EULER Associated Press

PARISIANS take to the streets in June 2020 to demonstrate against police violence and racial injustice.

Los Angeles Times
B2B PUBLISHING

COMMERCIAL
REAL ESTATE

Trends. Updates. Visionaries.

Deadline: Feb. 8
NOMINATE NOW!

www.latimes.com/b2bpublishing

The selection of the profiles, honorees, production of the event and articles within the issue will be organized by the L.A. Times B2B team and does not involve the editorial staff of the L.A. Times.

Los Angeles Times

HOT PROPERTY

IMPECCABLE HOMES FOR
DISCERNING BUYERS

Every week, Hot Property features some of the Southland's most desirable homes for sale.

And they're all at your fingertips:

latimes.com/HotProperty
or scan QR code

Hot Property is produced by the L.A. Times B2B Publishing division and does not involve the editorial staff of the L.A. Times.

THE WORLD

U.S. seeks de-escalation of Mideast unrest

Official decries Israeli-Palestinian violence and expresses support for a two-state solution for peace.

By Tracy Wilkinson

JERUSALEM — Arriving in Israel at what he called a “pivotal moment,” Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken on Monday called on Israelis and Palestinians alike to step back from the brink of all-out conflict, condemning terrorism and vengeance killings that target innocent civilians.

Blinken flew into Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv after a day in Cairo, and on Tuesday he will head to the West Bank city of Ramallah to meet with Palestinian officials. At each stop, security has taken on an urgency after a spate of some of the deadliest violence in Israel and the West Bank in recent memory.

Blinken also held several hours of consultations in one-on-one meetings with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Isaac Herzog and Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, who has been on the job just under a month as part of Netanyahu’s new far-right government.

At the airport, Blinken took the unusual step of reading a formal statement on the tarmac to the assembled media in which he fiercely criticized the killing Friday during Shabbat of seven Jewish Israelis by a Palestinian gunman. He called it a “heinous crime” made all the more shocking



U.S. SECRETARY of State Antony J. Blinken, left, and Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu speak at a news conference Monday in Jerusalem. Blinken suggested their discussion on democracy was “frank” but respectful.

because it killed worshipers, and Blinken also chastised those who would celebrate such violence, as some Palestinians were reported to have done.

But, he added: “Calls for vengeance against more innocent victims are not the answer, and acts of retaliatory violence against civilians are never justified.

“It’s the responsibility of everyone to take steps to calm tensions rather than inflame them,” Blinken said.

Though couched in diplomatic parlance, Blinken

chided on tough topics in Jerusalem and during his earlier stop in Cairo. He publicly repeated to his Israeli hosts the need for “our shared values” to preserve and strengthen democracy at a time when many Israelis believe democracy is being threatened by the new government’s policies to weaken courts and inject ultra-conservative religion into education and public life.

At a joint reading of statements to the media with Netanyahu, Blinken suggested that their discus-

sion of protecting democracy was “frank” but respectful. He reminded Netanyahu that a democracy must allow people’s voices to be heard and build consensus for new proposals. He was alluding to waves of demonstrations against the Netanyahu government’s most controversial plans and widespread fear of the erosion of Israel’s democracy.

“That conversation will continue, including with other members of Israel’s government and civil soci-

ety, as part of a perpetual process to defend and bolster the pillars of our democracy, which we are both committed to,” Blinken said.

He also repeated the Biden administration’s position that a permanent and enduring peace must include establishment of an independent Palestinian state, which many in Netanyahu’s Cabinet oppose.

In Cairo, Blinken stood beside Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry at a news conference and spoke about human rights in the

country, a highly sensitive topic, and revealed that he had met with Egyptian human rights defenders.

Egypt has an abysmal human rights record. Under President Abdel Fattah Sisi, thousands of people have been arrested and often held without charges, including dissidents, activists, journalists and critics of the government. Human rights groups have documented cases of torture and death in custody.

Blinken, who also met with Sisi behind closed doors for a little over an hour, said that while Egypt had made strides in religious freedom and other areas, “the concerns that we have remain.” He urged Egypt to release prisoners, reform pretrial detention, protect members of civil society and allow freedom of expression.

“Making tangible and lasting improvements on human rights is essential to strengthening even more our bilateral relationship,” Blinken said.

In Jerusalem, Blinken praised the “normalization” agreements between Israel and a handful of Arab countries led by the gulf states, which recognized Israel for the first time. Both Blinken and Netanyahu said they wanted to expand the process to bring in more countries.

But Blinken cautioned that normalization cannot be a substitute for resolving the fundamental conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

“As we advance Israel’s integration, we can do so in ways that improve the daily lives of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza,” he said.

Pakistan suicide attack kills 59

A bomber strikes a crowded mosque in a police compound, also wounding more than 150 worshipers.

By Riaz Khan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A suicide bomber struck a crowded mosque inside a police compound in Pakistan on Monday, causing the roof to collapse and killing at least 59 people and wounding more than 150 others, officials said.

Most of the casualties were police officers. It was not clear how the bomber was able to slip into the walled compound, which houses the northwestern city of Peshawar’s police headquarters and is inside a high-security zone with other government buildings.

Sarbakaf Mohmand, a commander for the Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, claimed responsibility on Twitter for the bombing.

But hours later, TTP spokesperson Mohammad Khurasani distanced the group from the bombing, saying it was not its policy to target mosques, seminaries and religious places, adding that those taking part in such acts could face punitive action under TTP’s policy. His statement did not address why a TTP commander had claimed responsibility for the bombing.

“The sheer scale of the human tragedy is unimaginable. This is no less than an attack on Pakistan,” tweeted Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, who visited the wounded in Peshawar and vowed “stern action” against those behind the bombing. He expressed his condolences to families of the victims, saying their pain “cannot be described in words.”

Pakistan, which is mostly Sunni Muslim, has seen a surge in militant attacks since November, when the Pakistani Taliban ended its



SOLDIERS and police officers clear the way for ambulances rushing toward the site of a suicide bombing at a mosque in Peshawar in northwestern Pakistan.

cease-fire with government forces.

Earlier this month, the Pakistani Taliban claimed one of its members shot and killed two intelligence officers, including the director of the counter-terrorism wing of the country’s military-based spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence. Security officials said Monday that the gunman was traced and killed in a shootout in the northwest near the Afghan border.

The TTP is separate from but a close ally of the Afghan Taliban. The Pakistani group has waged an insurgency over the last 15 years, fighting for stricter enforcement of Islamic laws, the release of members in government custody and a reduction of the Pakistani military presence in areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which it has longed used as its base.

Monday’s assault was one of the deadliest attacks on security forces in recent years.

More than 300 worshipers were praying inside the mosque, with more approaching, when the bomber set off his explosives vest. Many were injured when the roof came down, according to Zafar Khan, a police officer. Rescuers scrambled to remove mounds of debris from the mosque grounds to reach worshipers still trapped under the rubble.

Meena Gul, who was inside the mosque when the bomb went off, said he doesn’t know how he sur-

vived unhurt. The 38-year-old police officer said he could hear cries and screams after the bomb exploded.

Mohammad Asim, a spokesman at the main government hospital in Peshawar, put the death toll at 59, with 157 others wounded. Police official Siddique Khan said the bomber blew himself up among the worshipers.

Senior police and government officials attended the funerals of 30 police officers, and arrangements to bury the rest were being made. Coffins were wrapped in the Pakistani flag.

Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, has been the scene of frequent militant attacks.

The Afghan Taliban seized power in neighboring Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops pulled out of the country after 20 years of war.

The Pakistani government’s truce with the TTP ended as the country was still contending with unprecedented flooding that killed 1,739 people, destroyed more than 2 million homes, and at one point submerged as much as a third of the country.

Afghanistan’s Foreign Ministry said that it was “saddened to learn that numerous people lost their lives and many others were injured by an explosion at a mosque in Peshawar” and condemned attacks on worshipers as contrary to the

teachings of Islam.

Condemnations also came from the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad, as well as the U.S. Embassy, which said “the United States stands with Pakistan in condemning all forms of terrorism.”

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the bombing “particularly abhorrent” for targeting a place of worship, U.N. spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said.

Cash-strapped Pakistan faces a severe economic crisis and is seeking a crucial installment of \$1.1 billion from the International Monetary Fund — part of its \$6-billion bailout package — to avoid default. Talks with the IMF on reviving the bailout have stalled.

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan called the bombing a “terrorist suicide attack” in a Twitter post. “It is imperative we improve our intelligence gathering & properly equip our police forces to combat the growing threat of terrorism,” Khan tweeted.

Sharif’s government came to power in April after Khan was ousted in a no-confidence vote in parliament. Khan has since campaigned for early elections, saying his ouster was illegal and part of a plot backed by the U.S.

Washington and Sharif have dismissed Khan’s claims.

Khan writes for the Associated Press.

Russian shelling kills 5 civilians in Ukraine

Heavy fighting rages in towns and cities in the east and south.

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Fighting remained largely deadlocked Monday in eastern Ukraine, where Russian shelling killed five civilians over the last day, according to Ukrainian officials, as the warring sides sized up their needs for renewed military pushes expected in coming weeks.

The casualties included a woman who was killed and three other people who were wounded by Russian shelling of Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, in the country’s northeast, according to regional Gov. Oleh Sinegubov.

Moscow’s troops seized large areas of the Kharkiv region in the months following its invasion of Ukraine in February. But Ukrainian counteroffensives that began in August snatched back Russian-occupied territory, including in Kharkiv.

Those successes lent weight to Ukraine’s arguments that its troops could deliver more stinging defeats to Russia if its Western allies provided more weaponry.

Kyiv last week won promises of tanks from the U.S. and Germany to help its war effort.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Monday hinted at the prospect of more pledges, saying that “any activity aimed at strengthening Ukraine’s defense powers is under consultation with our NATO partners.”

Such a move could encounter some familiar political obstacles, however.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, after demurring for weeks over sending Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, looks set to dig in his heels over providing fighter jets. Germany would not have the key role in aircraft deliveries that it did with the Leopards, which are German-made and require German export approval.

Scholz, who is on a trip to South America, said he regretted the emergence of the fighter jet discussion.

He said in Chile on Sunday that a serious debate is necessary and not a “compe-

tition to outdo each other ... in which perhaps domestic political motives are in the foreground rather than support for Ukraine.”

Military analysts say more aid for Ukraine is crucial if Kyiv is to block an expected Russian offensive in the spring and launch its own effort to push back Russian forces.

“The pattern of delivery of Western aid has powerfully shaped the pattern of this conflict,” the Institute for the Study of War, a U.S.-based think tank, said late Sunday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said late Sunday that keeping up the pace of allies’ support is crucial.

“The speed of supply has been and will be one of the key factors in this war. Russia hopes to drag out the war, to exhaust our forces. So we have to make time our weapon,” he said in his nightly video address.

With the war approaching its one-year mark and draining resources on both sides, the Western call for weapons for Kyiv is spreading beyond the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The alliance’s secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg, on Monday called for South Korea to send direct military support to Ukraine too. South Korea is a growing arms exporter and has a well-equipped, U.S.-backed military.

France and Australia announced Monday plans to jointly produce and send several thousand 155-millimeter artillery shells to Ukraine.

The British Ministry of Defense noted Monday that the Kremlin never formally rescinded its order in September for a partial mobilization of reservists that boosted troop numbers for combat in Ukraine. It said Russia may be keeping the door open for further calls.

Heavy fighting continued to rage around Bakhmut and Vuhledar, with regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrilenko saying that 15 towns and villages in the region came under shelling Sunday.

Ukrainian authorities said the southern city of Kherson also has come under Russian shelling. The bombardment damaged residential buildings, a hospital, a school, a bus station, a bank and a post office.

Weary of toiling with little chance of gain

[China, from A1] lives on hold. Tech companies, once among the most reliable and coveted employers, have slashed jobs. Millions of college graduates are struggling to find work in the toughest labor market in decades.

Observers have noticed a growing malaise among a middle class weary of toiling in a hypercompetitive environment without much promise for material gain.

“The young generation has become more aware of the precarious situation that they are in,” said Zhan Yang, assistant professor of cultural anthropology at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. “They don’t want to just be stuck in one job forever, so they are experimenting with different ways of living. It’s like a small social experiment is taking place in China.”

Exact figures on how many people are living such lifestyles are elusive. But surveys show a growing interest in jobs that are more accommodating to different schedules and locations.

The number of flexible workers, such as part-timers or freelancers, in China nearly tripled to 200 million over the course of 2021, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. In a 2022 report by Peking University and Chinese recruitment platform Zhaopin, about 73% of respondents wanted to become digital nomads.

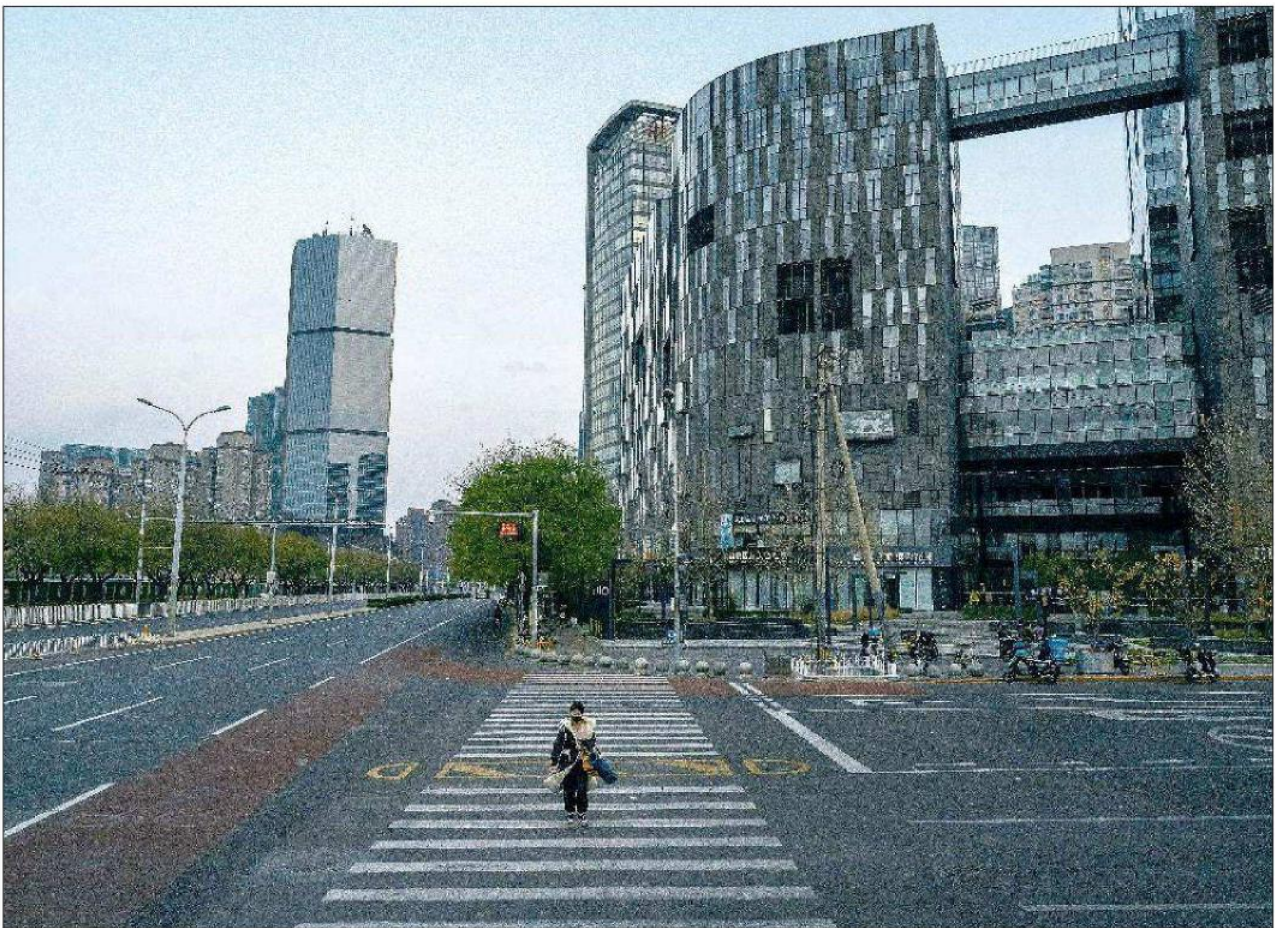
Even before the pandemic, backlash was growing over the punishing hours in China’s high-powered industries, a grind known as 996 — 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., six days a week. Employees endured because they believed with enough ambition and grit, anyone could make their fortune. But social mobility has stalled in recent years, undermining that premise.

“It’s kind of like an adrenaline rush, a boost that drives people to work 996. But now the boost is gone,” Chu said. “People are saying, Whatever you do, you’re not going to get rich, you’re not going to make a lot of money, you’re not going to be successful. So why not do something you like?”

For Chu, that means leisurely mornings and afternoons spent writing, making videos and selling goods online. With income from those new endeavors, she calculates she has enough savings to support herself for a few years in smaller, cheaper cities as she fleshes out her longer-term plan.

For now, she’s settled in a once-bustling tourist town nestled between mountains and the shore of West Lake, a 40-minute drive from the city of Hangzhou.

She rents space in a villa that had been used as a hotel before the pandemic, living among the owner and his family — who moved in after tourism dried up — and



KEVIN FRAYER Getty Images

A WOMAN crosses a road during rush hour in Beijing’s central business district on Nov. 22. In an effort to rein in COVID-19 outbreaks, offices had to close down and people were expected to work from home.

often joining them for home-cooked meals. Around the village, neighbors tend to their vegetable fields and tea farms.

It’s a far cry from her life in Beijing, where she was often overwhelmed by work messages and demands. Worries about COVID tests or securing deliveries during lockdown exacerbated that fatigue, and the days began to blur together.

“There’s kind of a feeling, like what have I done for all these years? I’ve wasted so much time,” she said. “I can say I went to some good universities and worked at some big companies, but it’s not something you want to write on your tombstone, you know?”

Still, Chu doesn’t want to fully embrace the trend of *tangping*, or lying flat, a rejection of the country’s rat race that gained popularity a few years ago. Disillusioned youth, tired of trying to fulfill societal expectations, relished the idea of giving up and just lying down. Others coined new variations, such as *yangwoqizuo*, or “sit-ups,” which describes a cycle between struggle and capitulation. Chu said that doesn’t quite fit her current attitude either.

“I’m not giving up on myself and doing nothing, but I’m not standing up or running. I’m just sitting here doing things — but that’s what I think real life should be.”

She’s put off telling her parents that she left her job, because she doesn’t want them to worry. But she thinks they might come to understand. They live in Wuhan and were among the

first to witness the devastation wrought by the pandemic; Chu believes they have also started to prioritize quality of life over traditional success.

For some in China that means leaving demanding jobs, trying to monetize hobbies, or hopping from town to town. Remote work hubs have popped up around the country; China’s Instagram-like platform, Xiaohongshu, said searches for digital nomads surged 650% from January to August 2022. Social media users have begun documenting their transitory lifestyles — including stays in steeply discounted hotel rooms or tourist resorts left deserted during the pandemic.

Summer Li, who quit her job at an e-commerce startup early last year, used the proliferation of such posts to plan her own travels. In May, she moved to the southern tech hub of Shenzhen for one month before returning to Beijing. In August she spent a month in Kunming, the capital of the mountainous Yunnan province, followed by a brief sojourn in

Jingdezhen, the “Porcelain Capital” of China, where she studied ceramics.

“I got this information because a lot of people are doing the same thing during COVID,” said Li, who has been running an online jewelry business while on the road. “I just realized, I think going to work is not for me.”

Chu had hesitated to give up her hard-earned job security, even as she watched friends quit work and travel. And when she first told her friends her plans to roam around China, many expressed concern, she said. After she started a video blog about her new life last month, friends and strangers reached out asking for tips on how to embark on similar journeys.

“In traditional Chinese society, many would think: People like you are not very good. They would say you are the unstable element of society,” Chu said. But lately, she has felt less pressure to settle down. “The good thing is that a lot of people are feeling the same way, that we don’t need to do the things that others want you to do.”

Last year, China’s population shrank for the first time in six decades, threatening a demographic crisis with insufficient young people to work and support the elderly. To boost birthrates, local governments have begun offering more supportive policies for families raising young children, and they’ve promoted incentives to buy real estate during the housing downturn.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has warned the country’s youth against “lying flat,” even as employment prospects have dimmed. “Work is most glorious, our happy lives are created through work. Becoming rich or famous overnight is not realistic,” Xi said during a university visit in Sichuan province in June, according to state media.

But neither incentives nor admonishments have mitigated the spreading ambivalence. Some Chinese became so despondent last year that many began researching how to emigrate, spawning a new movement known as *runxue*, or “run philosophy.”

Other countries, including Japan and South Korea, are experiencing similar struggles with a dejected younger generation, leading to low marriage and birth rates and putting pressure on governments to alleviate their citizens’ financial stress.

“It’s basically an economic problem,” said Terence Chong, associate economics professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. “Young people, they think they have no hope, housing prices are so expensive, so they just limit how hard they work.”

Chinese officials have begun walking back harsh policies in an effort to boost the economy.

Last month, China relaxed its stringent zero-COVID policy. Since then, the virus has spread rampant throughout the country, overwhelming hospitals and straining medical supplies. However, the change has allowed somewhat of a resumption of normal life and work, buoying hopes for an economic recovery.

Officials have also in effect declared an end to a years-long crackdown on private enterprise that battered tech companies and the for-profit education industry.

Even if the economy recovers, Chu can’t imagine going back to Beijing, or her former life.

“I think COVID gave me a chance to really reflect on myself,” she said. “If there was this opportunity to make a lot of money and be rich overnight, would I still be living the lifestyle I’m living right now? I don’t know, probably not.”

These days, Chu feels so removed from the rest of the world that she barely noticed when China lifted all COVID restrictions, until villagers began to get sick. Even then, the outbreak felt milder than what she was hearing about Beijing.

“If I turn off my phone, this place is like paradise,” she said. “I just hope that this life can last longer.”

At night, she often takes long walks around the tranquil village. She doesn’t remember the air ever smelling quite so sweet.

David Shen of The Times’ Taipei bureau contributed to this report.

Armenia urges U.N. to end blockade

Nation asks top court to intervene as food supplies for 120,000 people are threatened.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE HAGUE — Armenia pleaded with judges of the United Nations’ highest court on Monday to order Azerbaijan to break up a road blockade that is isolating the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, calling the action part of an act of “ethnic cleansing.”

Azerbaijan rejected the claim, accusing Armenia of using the dispute to create leverage in peace talks.

The hearing at the International Court of Justice comes amid rising tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia two years after they ended a war that killed about 6,800 soldiers and displaced around 90,000 civilians. Nagorno-Karabakh is within Azerbaijan but had been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since the end of a separatist war in 1994.

Late last year, Azerbaijanis claiming to be environmental activists began blocking a winding road known as the Lachin Corridor, which forms the only land connection between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The blockade threatens food supplies to Nagorno-Karabakh’s 120,000 people. Armenia argues the protests are orchestrated by Azerbaijan and says the country also has repeatedly halted supplies of gas to the region — a claim Azerbaijan also rejected.

“The Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh has been almost entirely cut off from the outside world,” Lawrence Martin, a lawyer representing Armenia, told judges Monday. “They have been — and they continue to be — deprived of access to



PETER DEJONG Associated Press

ARMENIA has appealed to the International Court of Justice, at the Peace Palace, above, in its dispute with Azerbaijan over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

food, medicine and all the other necessities of life. Without swift action by the court their lives are in danger.”

Armenia’s main legal representative to the court, Yeghishe Kirakosyan, told judges that Azerbaijan has effectively turned the Lachin Corridor into a one-way street.

“Ethnic Armenians may not enter Nagorno-Karabakh but they may leave,” he said. “Judges of the court, such blatant acts of ethnic cleansing have no place in [the] modern era.”

The local government in Nagorno-Karabakh has begun rationing essential food staples and called for a humanitarian airlift for critical supplies, but Azerbaijan hasn’t given authorization for the region’s airport to operate.

Azerbaijan Deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov told the court that his country was not orchestrating the protest, which he said was a legitimate civil demonstration against environmental damage caused

by mining companies.

“Armenia has accused Azerbaijan of the gravest of misconduct, making allegations of attempted ethnic cleansing. Azerbaijan rejects Armenia’s baseless accusations in the strongest terms,” he said.

Mammadov accused Armenia of using the road “to try to create political leverage in the ongoing peace negotiations between the two states and instead of trying to resolve issues, it encourages hatred and fear of Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis.”

The long-running underlying territorial conflict ended in a Russia-brokered cease-fire agreement that granted Azerbaijan control over parts of Nagorno-Karabakh as well as adjacent land occupied by Armenians. Russia sent a peacekeeping force of 2,000 troops to maintain order, including ensuring that the Lachin Corridor remained open.

Azerbaijan alleges that Armenians have used the corridor to transport land mines into Nagorno-Karabakh in violation of the

armistice that ended the conflict. The Azerbaijan government also has filed a request for the court to order a halt to Armenia laying land mines and to “take all necessary steps” to enable Azerbaijan’s de-mining efforts. Hearings in that request are scheduled for Tuesday. Armenia denies the claim.

The requests for what the court calls provisional measures are part of a pair of cases Armenia and Azerbaijan filed at the world court that are linked to the war. The court is likely to take years to rule on the merits of the cases, which both allege breaches of an international convention aimed at eliminating racial discrimination.

The latest flare-up in tensions comes despite the court ordering both nations just over a year ago to prevent discrimination against one another’s citizens in the aftermath of the war.

The court will probably issue a legally binding ruling within weeks on the provisional measure requests by both countries.

How to contact us

(800) LA TIMES

Home Delivery and Membership Program

For questions about delivery, billing and vacation holds, or for information about our Membership program, please contact us at (213) 283-2274 or membershipservices@latimes.com. You can also manage your account at myaccount.latimes.com.

Letters to the Editor

Want to write a letter to be published in the paper and online? E-mail letters@latimes.com. For submission guidelines, see latimes.com/letters.

Readers' Representative

If you believe we have made an error, or you have questions about our journalistic standards and practices, our readers’ representative can be reached at readers.representative@latimes.com, (877) 554-4000 or online at latimes.com/readersrep.

Advertising

For print and online advertising information, go to

latimes.com/mediakit or call (213) 237-6176.

Reprint Requests

For the rights to use articles, photos, graphics and page reproductions, e-mail reprint@latimes.com or call (213) 237-4565.

Times In Education

To get the digital Los Angeles Times at no cost (along with our newspaper-based teaching materials), contact us at latimes.com/tie, or email Heidi.stauder@latimes.com

The Newsroom

Know something important we should cover? Send a secure tip at latimes.com/tips. To send a press release go to the newsroom directory at latimes.com/staff.

Media Relations

For outside media requests and inquiries, e-mail commsdept@latimes.com.

L.A. Times Store

Search archives, merchandise and front pages at latimes.com/store.

Los Angeles Times

A California Times Publication
Founded Dec. 4, 1881
Vol. CXLII No. 59

LOS ANGELES TIMES (ISSN 0458-3035) is published by the Los Angeles Times, 2300 E. Imperial Highway, El Segundo, CA 90245. Periodicals postage is paid at Los Angeles, CA, and additional cities. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the above address.

Home Delivery Subscription Rates (all rates include applicable CA sales taxes and apply to most areas):

Print + unlimited digital rates:
Seven-day \$28/week, \$1,456 annually.
Thursday–Sunday \$16/week, \$832 annually.
Thursday & Sunday \$10/week, \$520 annually.
Saturday & Sunday \$9/week, \$468 annually.
Sunday \$8.50/week, \$442 annually.
Monday–Saturday \$18/week, \$936 annually (also includes Sundays, except 2/19, 4/9, 9/3, and 10/8).
Monday–Friday \$16/week, \$832 annually.

Pricing for all subscriptions includes the Thanksgiving 11/23/23 issue.
All subscriptions may include up to eight Premium issues per year. For each Premium issue, your account balance will be charged an additional fee up to \$4.49, in the billing period when the section publishes. This will result in shortening the length of your billing period. Future Premium issues may include: New LA Times Food 11/8/23, Festival of Books 4/16/23, 101 California Best 5/21/23, Ultimate Consumer Guide to Streaming 6/18/23, Boiling Point 8/6/23, De Los Latino 10/1/23. Holiday Gift Guide 11/19/23, 101 Best Restaurants 12/10/23. Dates and titles are subject to change without notice.
Subscriptions with a Thurs. delivery, include 24 special issues of The Envelope via USPS with 2 issues in Jan., 5 in Feb., 2 in May, 4 in June, 3 in Aug., 1 in Oct., 3 in Nov. and 5 in Dec.

Fallout continues in Tyre Nichols case

Three EMTs who responded to the scene are fired, while two police officers have been suspended.

By Libor Jany

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — In the latest fallout from the police beating death of Tyre Nichols, Memphis officials on Monday announced that three members of the city's fire department have been fired and confirmed that two police officers have been suspended since shortly after the incident, including one who used his Taser on Nichols.

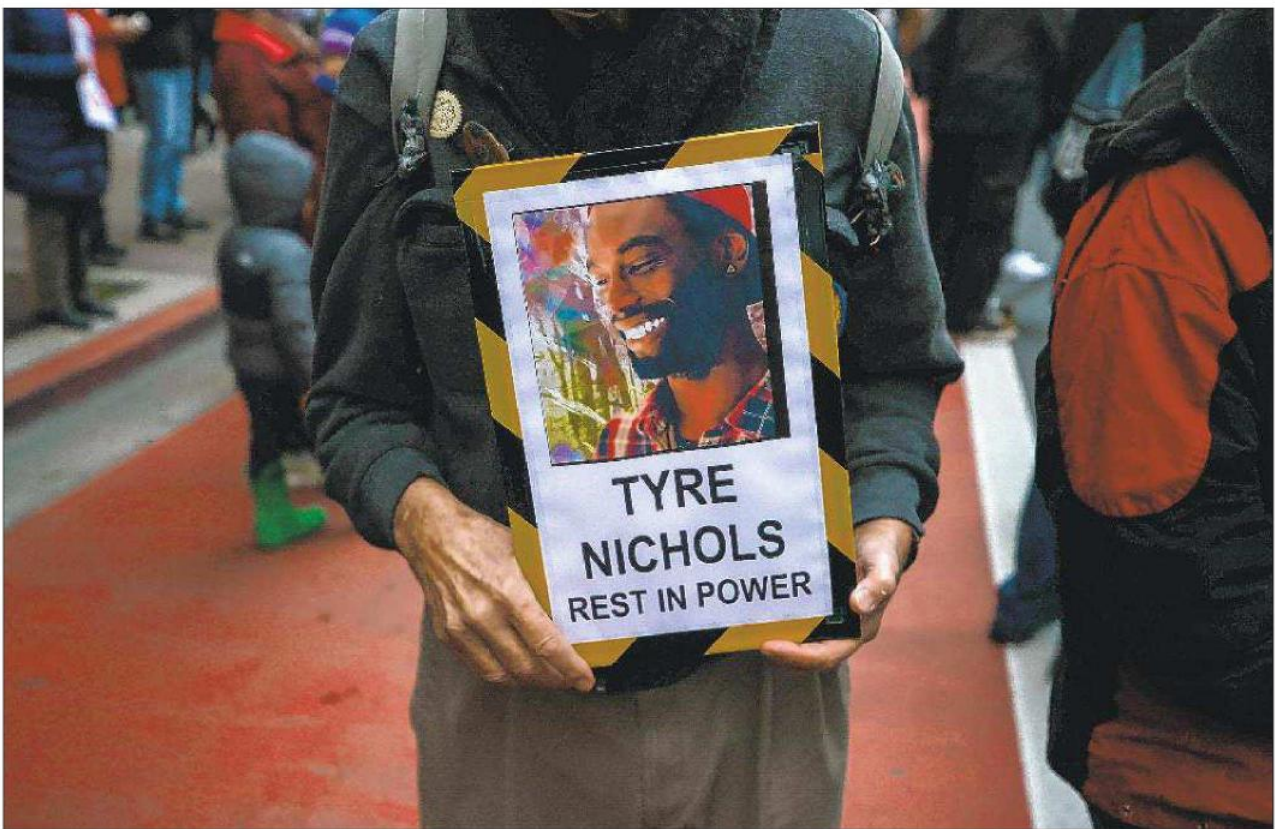
In all, seven police officers have been stripped of their badges, either permanently or temporarily, for their involvement in the Jan. 7 encounter with Nichols: five officers who were fired from the police force and charged with murder for his death, and the two who were suspended.

The firings and suspensions were announced as local prosecutors said they had not ruled out criminal charges against the officer who deployed his Taser, Preston Hemphill, or others who were involved in the violent encounter.

Officials have not identified the seventh officer or explained the reason for the suspension.

"We are looking at all individuals involved in the events leading up to, during and after the beating of Tyre Nichols," the Shelby County district attorney's office said in a statement. "While we are committed to transparency, we cannot comment on the details of an ongoing investigation or give previews of what charges we may or may not bring."

Erica Williams, a spokeswoman for the office, said there was no timeline for when decisions would be



Anadolu Agency

AS MOURNERS pay tribute to Tyre Nichols, seven officers have been stripped of their badges, permanently or temporarily, for their involvement in his death. Three Memphis Fire Department EMTs have been fired.

made about filing additional charges.

"We are working with [the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation], who's investigating this, so we have to get information from them," Williams said.

Hemphill, who joined the force in 2018, was placed on administrative leave shortly after the Memphis Police Department began its investigation into the arrest of Nichols, 29, in a neighborhood on the southeast side of the city.

Memphis police officials have not said what role Hemphill played in the incident, but attorney Lee Gerald — who said in a statement that he represents Hemphill — claimed he was the third officer to arrive "at the initial stop of Mr. Nichols."

Gerald said one of the four videos city officials re-

leased of the incident was recorded by a camera worn by Hemphill.

In the video, Hemphill and other officers are seen angrily ordering Nichols from his car at a traffic light and screaming at him to get on the ground, while Nichols asks what he has done wrong. In the video, officers forcibly try to restrain Nichols, and Hemphill fires his Taser as Nichols gets to his feet and flees.

The beating, which was also captured on video, occurred when other officers caught up to Nichols several minutes later.

"As per departmental regulations Officer Hemphill activated his bodycam," Gerald said in the statement. "He was never present at the second scene. He is cooperating with officials in this investigation."

Officials have not de-

tailed what led police to stop Nichols in the first place.

The police department said in a statement that internal affairs investigators had interviewed more than 30 people, adding that "there are numerous charges still developing that are impending."

The statement said officials expect the "next phase of personnel actions in the coming days."

The "actions and in-actions" of Hemphill and the unnamed seventh officer remain under investigation, officials said.

Meanwhile, the Memphis Fire Department announced the terminations of emergency medical technicians Robert Long, JaMichael Sandridge and Lt. Michelle Whitaker in a statement on Twitter.

The statement said the trio were dispatched to the

call about 8:32 p.m. and, after responding to the original site of the traffic stop, were directed to a nearby street, where they found Nichols handcuffed and leaning against a police vehicle. An internal investigation concluded that Long and Sandridge were told they were responding to a call involving a person who had been pepper-sprayed, but when they arrived, they "failed to conduct an adequate patient assessment of Mr. Nichols."

In a video released by the city that was recorded by a pole-mounted camera, medical personnel can be seen arriving after the beating and, for several minutes, not tending to Nichols, who was visibly injured. An ambulance was eventually summoned to the scene.

The department's investigation found that the

EMTs and lieutenant "violated numerous [department] policies and procedures," the statement said. "Their actions or inactions on the scene that night do not meet the expectations of the Memphis Fire Department and are not reflective of the outstanding service the men and women of the Memphis Fire Department provide daily."

Nichols died at an area hospital three days after the traffic stop spiraled into the gruesome assault in which officers kicked, punched and pepper-sprayed him while he was being restrained by other officers.

The killing has reignited debate over tactics used by specialized crime suppression units. The officers who pulled Nichols over for an unspecified traffic violation were members of one such team — nicknamed the Scorpion unit — that has since been disbanded.

Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn "CJ" Davis initially told reporters that she wanted to keep the unit intact and would not scuttle it because a few officers had committed "some egregious act."

But she reversed her decision Saturday after meeting with members of the unit and "listening intently to the family of Tyre Nichols, community leaders and officers who have done quality work in their assignments," according to a department news release.

A source familiar with the case said Hemphill was also a member of the Scorpion unit, which he joined last October.

After a review of video footage of the beating, five of the involved officers were fired and charged with murder for Nichols' death.

Local activists have pushed for Davis to terminate any other officers who were present.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Witness describes payoffs to former Mexico top cop

The onetime drug smuggler testifies at trial in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Describing meetings at a car wash and a smuggler's country house, a onetime drug trafficker testified Monday that he paid a former Cabinet-level Mexican security official millions of dollars for help that included U.S. government information about a huge cocaine shipment in Mexico.

Oscar Nava Valencia, known as "El Lobo," said the payments to former security secretary Genaro García Luna also were intended to assure protection at a time when a schism in the notorious Sinaloa cartel was heading toward a drug-world war.

García Luna and a high-ranking police official "said they were going to stand with us," Nava Valencia told jurors at García Luna's U.S. federal drug trafficking trial in New York.

García Luna is accused of accepting millions of dollars to let the Sinaloa cartel operate with impunity as it sent tons of cocaine to the United States.

Defense lawyers haven't yet had their chance to question Nava Valencia, but they have argued that the case rests on lies from self-interested criminals.

García Luna has pleaded not guilty, and his lawyers have said the former Cabinet member tried earnestly to combat the drug trade and is being abandoned by a U.S. government that once viewed him as a partner.

Nava Valencia pleaded guilty years ago to cocaine conspiracy.

He helm Mexico's Milenio drug cartel. That enterprise had ties to the Sinaloa cartel during the reign of infamous kingpin Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, whose recent U.S. trial aired testimony about alleged payoffs made to



Marco Ugarte Associated Press

GENARO García Luna, shown in 2010, is accused of taking bribes when he was Mexico's security chief.

García Luna.

Nava Valencia told jurors he paid \$5 million to García Luna and other high-level government officials to try to free a shipping container packed with 10 tons of Colombian cocaine after it was seized around 2007 in the Pacific port of Manzanillo, Mexico.

The traffickers didn't get the drugs back; on the contrary, another 10-ton container was seized days later, and the drugs were incinerated, Nava Valencia said.

Nava Valencia testified that during a meeting about a month later at a cartel bigwig's country house outside the central Mexican city of Cuernavaca, García Luna said he hadn't been able to intervene because the U.S. government and Mexican marines had been involved in the seizure.

But, he said, García Luna came through in another way: He later provided a document showing that the U.S. government had known about the shipment and its origins — information the Mexican traffickers used to persuade their irritated suppliers that the problem had been on the Colombians' end.

The Colombians backed off their demand for a \$50-million reimbursement, Nava Valencia said.

Nava Valencia recounted a second face-to-face meet-

ing with García Luna some time later, amid a rift in the Sinaloa cartel. Nava Valencia ultimately aligned with Guzmán's faction, which worried that its allies-turned-adversaries would begin informing authorities so as to get police to harass their rivals.

"There were going to be operations and investigations against us, and we wanted to try to put a brake on them," he explained.

So, he said, he and his associates paid \$500,000 to get a meeting with García Luna and an additional \$2.5 million when the security secretary showed up for the sit-down in an office above a car wash in the city of Guadalajara.

That was when, according to Nava Valencia, García Luna and the police official with him pledged "to stand with us."

García Luna led Mexico's Federal Investigation Agency from 2001 to 2005, then served as secretary of public security to President Felipe Calderón from 2006 to 2012, when he left Mexican government service and moved to Miami. He was arrested in 2019 in Texas and has since been held without bail in a federal lockup.

He could face decades in prison if convicted of drug trafficking and engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise.

American Standard

SAVE \$1,800

SAVINGS INCLUDE FREE TOILET + BIDET

PLUS NO INTEREST and NO PAYMENTS for 24* MONTHS PLUS

50% OFF INSTALLATION**

SCHEDULE A FREE IN-HOME DESIGN CONSULTATION

844-544-5248

AmericanStandardBaths.com/SAVE

*24-month Financing Details: Subject to credit approval. Prior sales excluded. A minimum purchase of \$10,000.00 is required. Terms and Conditions apply. No interest will be assessed on the promotional purchase if you pay the promotional purchase in full within 24 months from the purchase date. An interest rate of 17.99% will be charged to your account for 84 months for any balance that remains if the promotional purchase is not paid in full within 24 months. Customer must pay applicable sales tax. Not valid with any other offer or promotion. See the Design Consultant for details. Other restrictions apply. We reserve the right to discontinue or alter the terms without notice. Offer valid thru April 30, 2023. **Installation Promo: 50% off installation is equal to 10% off of the net total project price. Terms and Conditions apply. We reserve the right to discontinue or alter the terms without notice. Offer valid thru April 30, 2023. CA: CSLB B982796; NYC: HIC2022748-DCA; Suffolk NY: 55431H

Librarians on front lines of culture wars

[**Librarians**, from A1] what their children were taught.

Recent polls suggest most Americans are not in favor of banning books. But concentrated pressure by politically connected parental groups, said Peter Bromberg, a board member at EveryLibrary, a nonprofit library advisory group, “has librarians facing a great deal of stress. There are signs on people’s lawns calling librarians pedophiles.” They face pressure from principals and administrators over book displays, and “neighbors talk about them being an arm of Satan.”

Some librarians are fighting back; others have lost or left their jobs. The culture wars over books come at a time when about 27% of public libraries have reduced staff because of budget cuts and other reasons, according to a 2021 national survey. Lessa Kanani’opua Pelayo-Lozada, president of the American Library Assn., said librarians’ problems are compounded by attacks that are part of an effort “seeking to abolish diverse ideas and erode this country of freedom of expression. I see it as the dismantling of education.”

::

A number of school board meetings in recent years have become explosive and emblematic of the country’s political animosities. Parents yell, boo, shake fists and hold up sexually graphic images in dramas that play out on social media.

Similar scenes have erupted at public libraries, including at the Patmos Library in western Michigan, where at least two librarians have quit amid pressure and harassment from residents demanding the removal of LGBTQ books and young-adult graphic novels.

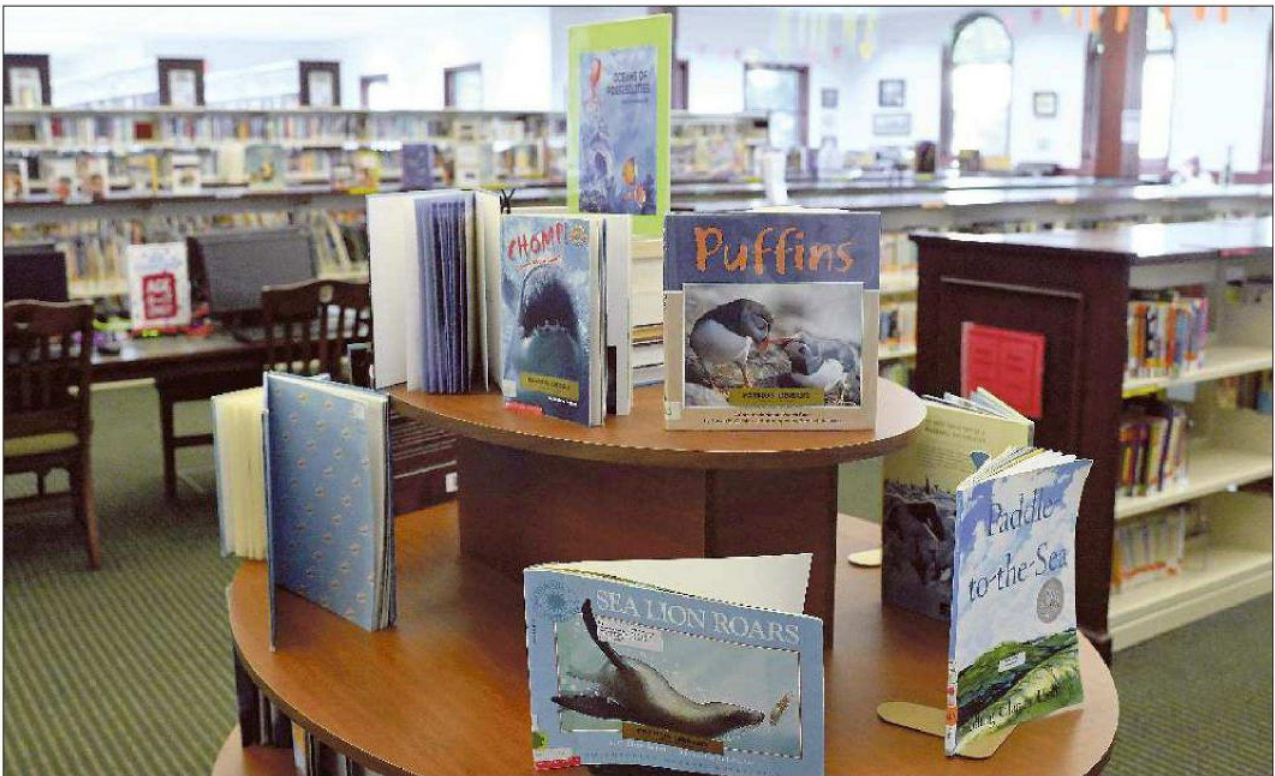
At the library’s December board meeting, librarian Jean Reicher denounced critics a week after the building closed early over fears for the staff’s safety. She said that signs around town labeled her a pedophile and that she’d received abusive phone calls and had iPhones pointed at her.

Her emotional retort came a month after a campaign led by conservatives succeeded in defunding the library, forcing it to rely on donations.

“We have been threatened. We have been cursed,” said Reicher. “How dare you people. You don’t know me. You don’t know anything about me. You have said I’ve sexualized your children. I’m grooming your children.”

She raised her hands. Her anger welled.

“I have six grandkids out there,” she said, ticking off the offenses aimed at her. “I moved to this town 2½ years ago, and I regret it every day for the last year. This has been horrible,” she continued. “I wasn’t raised this way. I believe in God. I’m a



JOSHUA LOTT Washington Post

BOOKS on display at the Patmos Library in Jamestown, Mich., in August. A campaign led by conservatives succeeded in defunding the library, forcing it to rely on donations. At least two librarians have quit.

Catholic. I’m a Christian. I’m everything you are.”

School and library boards are encountering demands from conservative lawmakers and parental groups, such as Moms for Liberty and Mama Bears Rising, and in a few instances the far-right extremist group the Proud Boys, to scrub libraries of what they consider upsetting pornographic and LGBTQ depictions. Many conservatives criticize schools as overrun with progressive ideas that are confusing children about race and gender.

“By exposing our children to adult concepts such as gender identity, we are asking them to carry a load that is much too heavy for them,” Kit Hart, a Moms for Liberty member, said in a video posted last year from a school board meeting in Carroll County, Md. “A 10-year-old should not be reduced to his sexuality.”

A video posted on the Moms for Liberty website shows another one of its members outlining her concerns at a public meeting in Mecklenburg, N.C.: “Parents beware of terms like social justice, diversity, equity, inclusion. Those inherently good things are being used to disguise a biased political agenda,” she said. “Our schools are becoming indoctrination camps and a breeding ground for hatred and division.”

Florida and other states have placed tougher restrictions on books that schools can stock. A Missouri law passed last year makes it a crime for a school to provide sexually explicit material to a student. After a discrimination complaint filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, the U.S. Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights is investigating a Texas school district after a superintendent directed librarians to remove LGBTQ-related books.

“We have been thrown to

the forefront of the cultural wars whether we want to be there or not,” said Amanda Jones, a middle school librarian in Livingston Parish, La., who last year broke out in hives and fell into depression after she was threatened for speaking against censorship.

“It’s not fun to be vilified in your small town or the country at large. It’s all related to their using political fear and outrage. And they’re using children to do it.”

Jones was skewered by conservative activists, including Citizens for a New Louisiana, after she warned at a library meeting that “hate and fear disguised as moral outrage have no place in Livingston Parish.” A picture of her appeared online with a red circle around her head — resembling a target — and she was called a pig and a supporter of teaching anal sex to 11-year-olds. Someone suggested she should be slapped.

Martha Hickson, a high school librarian in Annandale, N.J., endured similar stress and said she lost 12 pounds in one week after she was accused by a parent at a school board meeting of being a groomer by providing graphic novels and memoirs, such as “Gender Queer” by Maia Kobabe and “Lawn Boy” by Jonathan Evison, that could steer children toward “heinous acts.”

“What really stung was that my name was used in that context,” said Hickson, 63, who in 2020 received the American Assn. of School Librarians’ Intellectual Freedom Award. “It was devastating. I broke down and I couldn’t stop crying.”

She couldn’t catch her breath, she said, and “couldn’t speak in full sentences. I cracked two teeth from grinding and was fitted with a night guard. I go to the pool now and swim three times a week. It washes the stress away.”

Jessica Brassington,

‘These groups wanting to ban books have a whole political machinery around them and are using books as proxies to attack people.’

— MARTHA HICKSON, high school librarian

head of the Texas-based Mama Bears Rising, which advocates for increased parental oversight in education, said her intent is not to rebuke librarians or teachers but to get stricter state guidelines on selecting school books in what she sees as a broader war against her Christian faith.

“We want to protect our children. We’ve seen the dark side of what can happen beyond the book. Suicide. Alienation,” said Brassington, whose organization has pressed for the removal of books in school districts and warned against children being indoctrinated by an “evil” sexual agenda. “We want to know what books are available to our children. ... The parents are being bypassed.”

::

Calls to ban certain books in schools have arisen for generations among liberal and conservative parents, educators and activist groups. Classics such as Mark Twain’s “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” and Maya Angelou’s “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” have been pulled from reading lists. Books deemed to be obscene such as “The Catcher in the Rye” and “Tropic of Cancer” were censored for decades. In the 1980s, well-funded and organized groups like the Christian right Moral Majority condemned books on secular humanism.

Those battles echo today

and have accelerated as religious conservatives and right-leaning politicians, including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, have backed bills to limit school instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation. Of the 1,648 titles banned in schools across the country in the 2021-22 school year, according to a PEN America study, 41% had prominent LGBTQ characters or explicitly explored LGBTQ themes.

“It’s hard to compare this to anything other than the Red Scare in the 1950s,” said Foote, a retired high school librarian of 29 years who was named a Champion of Change by President Obama. “There’s nothing else remotely close to this.”

Librarians are being “pushed out of the process of selecting books,” said Tasslyn Magnusson, a Wisconsin writer and teacher who has compiled a national database of books being challenged in school districts. “We’re cutting kids off from all the things they need to function in a diverse society. They’re trying to [keep] kids from learning about the world. How will kids grow into good Americans and global citizens? I just read somewhere James Baldwin got banned.”

School librarians have long been accustomed to hearing from angry parents. Some parents request that their child not be allowed to check out certain books. Demands to remove a book from circulation traditionally go through a committee

review process. But librarians have complained recently that thorough reviews are sometimes skipped or influenced by pressure from parental groups.

That pressure in some districts is likely to make for less diverse reading lists as librarians choose not to select certain books. “If librarians are being threatened with lawsuits and fines,” said Pelayo-Lozada, whose association held a nationwide conference in New Orleans over the weekend that addressed book banning, “it can lead to self-censoring.”

Hickson’s school district in New Jersey faced criticism in 2021 when a group of parents wanted “Gender Queer,” “Lawn Boy” and other books removed from the library. A complaint was filed against Hickson with police, but the local prosecutor did not pursue charges. At later school board meetings, a contingent of parents, students and residents urged the board not to purge those titles. A district committee reviewed the books and last year decided to keep them on the shelves.

“But I was still tarred and feathered,” said Hickson. Amid pressure from her union and support in the community, the school board said accusations of “malicious motives” against Hickson were unfounded.

“I look at these kids and my heart breaks,” she said. “These groups wanting to ban books have a whole political machinery around them and are using books as proxies to attack people in society.”

Kids have to deal with “bullying, slurs and shoving.”

Jones in Louisiana said school libraries are often refuges for students to explore what they may be experiencing along racial and LGBTQ themes.

“A lot of parents supported me but they were scared to speak out because of harassment,” said Jones, president of the Louisiana Assn. of School Librarians. “Some students question their identity and they come to me and ask about LGBTQ books. But the parents want to keep it quiet so the child is not harassed. This whole thing has turned my life upside down.”

Jones is on medical leave until next semester. A defamation suit she filed against two men, including one belonging to the conservative group Citizens for a New Louisiana, was dismissed. She said she will appeal. Last month, state Atty. Gen. Jeff Landry, who is running for governor, announced a tip line for people to “protect” children and report library books that contain “extremely graphic sexual content.”

“They’re using librarians again for their politics,” said Jones, who is writing a book about her ordeal and forming a citizens’ alliance against censorship in the state’s 64 parishes.

Minnesota court OKs vehicle ties to California

Appeals jurists uphold the ‘Clean Car Rule’ linking the states’ emission regulations.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Minnesota Court of Appeals on Monday upheld the state’s “Clean Car Rule,” which ties vehicle emission standards to California regulations, as judges accepted assurances that California’s planned phaseout of gasoline-powered cars won’t automatically apply in Minnesota.

A three-judge panel rejected the arguments of Minnesota auto dealers, who argued that state pollution regulators exceeded their authority and unconstitutionally delegated their rule-making authority to California.

The appeals court concluded that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency acted within its statutory authority and that the state’s rule is therefore valid. The decision was a vic-

tory for the administration of Democratic Gov. Tim Walz, which adopted the rule in 2021 amid a fight with Republican lawmakers who were upset that the Legislature was cut out of the decision. The rule takes effect in the 2025 model year and is meant to increase the supply and selection of electric vehicles.

The Minnesota Automobile Dealers Assn. expressed disappointment with the ruling and said it would consider appealing. The group contends that as manufacturers are ramping up production, the rule could saddle dealers with more electric vehicles than consumers want to buy.

“The one good thing to come from today’s decision is that if Minnesota wants to go forward with the new rule recently adopted by California, the MPCA will need to affirmatively conduct new rule-making,” Scott Lambert, president of the association, said in an email.

According to the California Air Resources Board, 17 states have chosen to link their emission standards to California’s, which are

stronger than federal regulations.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, states generally must follow California standards or default to federal ones. The issue heated up after California last August went even further, putting itself on a path — the strictest in the nation — toward requiring that all new vehicles be electric or hydrogen-powered by 2035. The decision forces the other states to decide if they want to follow California down the same path.

Vermont, New York, Oregon, Washington, Massachusetts and Delaware have either adopted similar rules, begun rule-making or indicated interest in doing so. Colorado has decided not to follow California’s ban but has committed to continuing to expand its electric vehicle market and to increase consumer access to more models.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals accepted the MPCA’s arguments that the state would have to launch an entirely new rule-making process to adopt California’s ban on new gasoline-pow-



KEITH SRAKOCIC Associated Press

MINNESOTA automobile dealers expressed disappointment with the ruling, saying it could saddle them with electric cars that consumers don’t want to buy.

ered vehicles. Agency officials said in court filings, legislative hearings and at a news conference with the governor last year that they had no immediate plans to do so, but they didn’t rule it out.

An MPCA spokesman said the agency was working on a response to the court ruling.

Lambert said California’s rules were never a good fit for Minnesota.

“This supply mandate

run by California bureaucrats does not address the main hurdles in the way of getting consumers into electric vehicles,” he said. “The state should be instituting an aggressive policy of building infrastructure and creating incentives for consumers to purchase this new technology.”

Maintaining the Clean Car Rule was part of a broad framework for fighting climate change that Walz rolled out in September, and

the governor affirmed his commitment to it in an interview this month.

Meanwhile, Democrats who control both chambers of the Minnesota Legislature have made fighting climate change one of their top priorities for the current session. The House earlier this month passed a fast-track bill to put Minnesota on a path to 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040. The bill is awaiting a floor vote in the Senate.

Court picks haven’t offset Trump’s impact

[9th Circuit, from A1]
placed judges appointed by Democrats. Among the judges who departed was Stephen Reinhardt, who sat on the 9th Circuit for 38 years and was considered its “liberal lion.”

“Trump was able to have exaggerated importance in that way,” said Carl Tobias, a University of Richmond law professor who studies the court.

By comparison, the six judges Biden has appointed to the court all replaced older judges who were appointed by Democratic presidents and also leaned liberal. The two additional judges Biden is expected to replace were also appointed by Democrats.

Biden’s appointments still represent a net gain for liberals, particularly given that the liberal judges he replaced all remain on part-time “senior status” and will continue hearing appeals and issuing opinions. However, the effect is less than it would be had Biden replaced conservative judges, experts said.

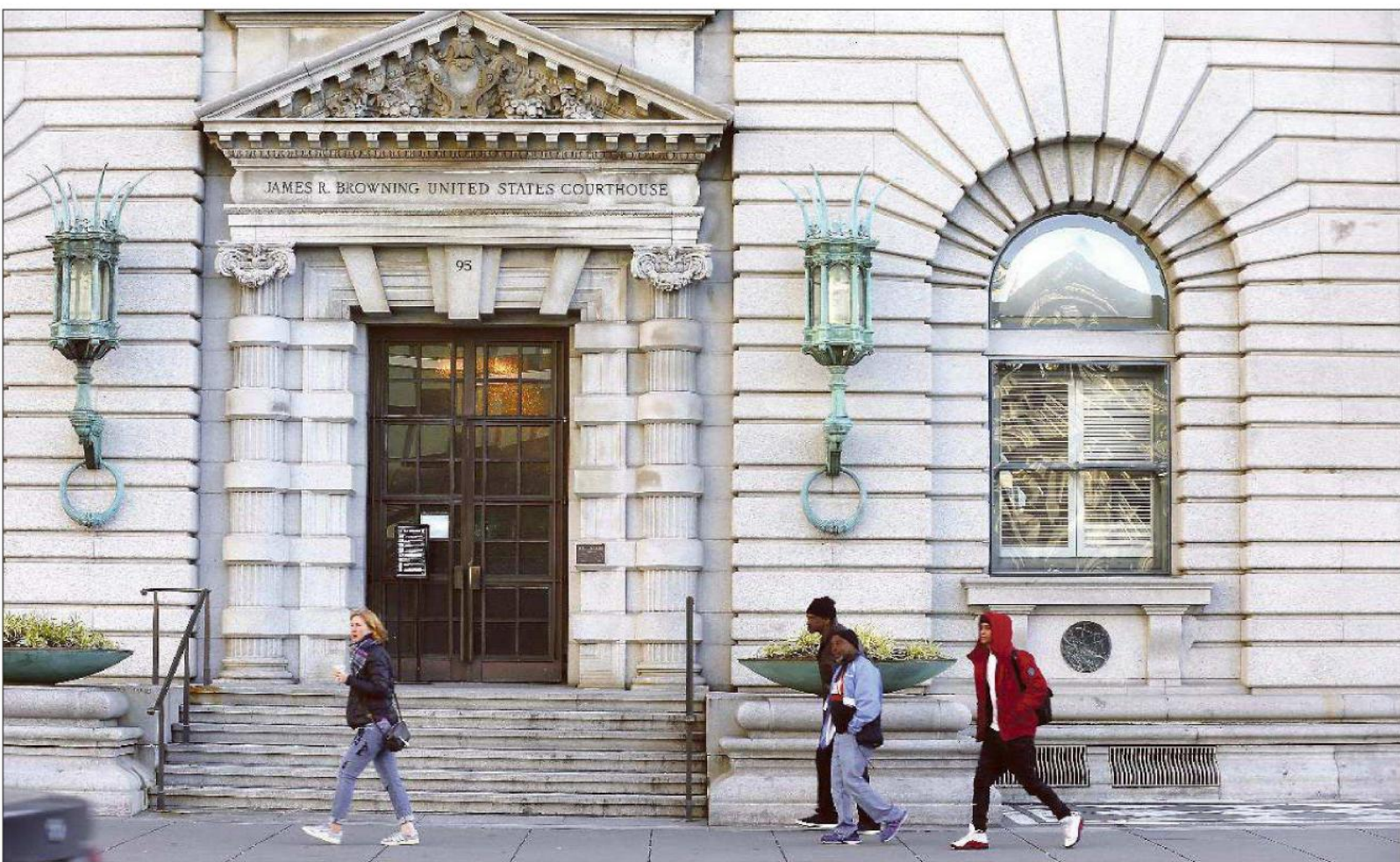
The White House did not respond to a request for comment on Biden’s impact on the court.

Federal appellate judges are meant to apply the law as set forth by the U.S. Constitution, Congress and prior court precedent, including as established by the U.S. Supreme Court. And they often eschew discussions about their own partisan beliefs.

But which president appointed a judge is a strong indicator of how that judge will rule on issues that straddle the nation’s political divide, experts said. Attorneys and other observers can often predict which way the court will land on a case based on the makeup of the panel of judges hearing it.

“We all know that there are many cases where the ideology of the judges makes all the difference,” Chemerinsky said. “As a lawyer, the first thing I want to know, as soon as I can find out, is who is [on] my panel.”

Because of the power of federal appellate judges to set legal precedents that can influence national policy on fundamental issues, presidents work with allies in the Senate, which must confirm judicial appointees, to fill open seats as a means of solidifying their political legacies. Judges, meanwhile,



PAUL CHINN San Francisco Chronicle

PRESIDENT BIDEN has appointed six judges to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco and has two more on the way.

typically retire or step back to part-time service when a president of their own political party is in office to help ensure they will be replaced by someone with a similar political disposition.

Among the nation’s appellate courts, the 9th Circuit has become known as a particularly partisan battleground in recent decades, in part because its judges leaned so far to the left.

The court earned Trump’s ire for blocking policies of his administration — such as the ban on visitors and immigrants from mostly Muslim nations — and its rulings have been reversed in relatively large numbers by the U.S. Supreme Court, which Trump pushed to the right with his appointments.

Reshaping the 9th Circuit in a similar way has long been a goal of conservatives, and Trump’s success there was due not only to the help he received from Republicans in Congress but also from some of the most staunchly liberal judges in the 9th Circuit’s history.

Circuit judges, who are appointed for life, free their

seat for a president to replace them in one of three ways: They die, they quit, or they take “senior status” — which they are eligible to do only when their age and number of years on the bench are a combined total of 80 or more.

Reinhardt, who was appointed by President Carter, could have taken senior status throughout the Obama administration, but instead died as an active judge from a heart attack in 2018 at the age of 87. In doing so, Reinhardt handed the power to appoint his successor to Trump — who chose to replace the “liberal lion” with Kenneth K. Lee, a conservative Los Angeles litigator.

Trump also replaced another liberal Carter appointee who held on to his seat well after he was eligible to take senior status.

When Judge Harry Pregerson decided to take senior status in late 2015, he was 92 and Obama was already nearing the end of his second term. Obama quickly put forward U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh to replace Pregerson, but by then it was too late.

It was already a presidential election year, when judicial nominations typically slow, and then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, blocked Koh’s nomination. Rather than Obama replacing Pregerson, Trump did so with Daniel Collins, a conservative former federal prosecutor.

Trump’s appointees sitting on three-judge panels have issued conservative rulings and dissents in a host of cases. Some of those rulings have been reversed by “en banc” panels that consist of 11 9th Circuit judges, although the conservative-leaning Supreme Court may take up those cases for their own review. Many observers are keeping a particularly close eye on a host of California gun control measures that Trump’s appointees to the 9th Circuit have already indicated an intent to overturn based on recent decisions by the Supreme Court.

In one example, Lee wrote an opinion in 2020 that invalidated California’s long-standing ban on high-capacity ammunition maga-

zines. An en banc panel reversed that decision in 2021, upholding the ban. Then, last year, the Supreme Court vacated the en banc panel’s decision. The high court returned the case to the 9th Circuit for reconsideration in light of its decision in a New York case that broad limits on carrying firearms are unconstitutional if they are not analogous to similar restrictions from early American history.

The en banc panel has since sent the case back to the lower District Court to be relitigated there.

The court’s 29 full-time active judges now consist of 16 appointed by Democrats and 13 by Republicans. Among the court’s senior judges, there are 13 appointed by Democrats and 10 by Republicans.

Some senior judges have stopped hearing cases, but the 9th Circuit will not identify them.

The full influence of Biden’s appointees is yet to be seen.

Biden’s first appointee to the court was Koh, the judge Obama had tried to appoint to Pregerson’s seat. A former

federal prosecutor, California Superior Court judge and federal district judge known for her expertise in intellectual property law, Koh was the first Korean American woman appointed to a federal appellate court.

Judge Jennifer Sung formerly worked as an attorney representing labor organizations and employees. Judge Roopali Desai, the first South Asian person appointed to the court, is the daughter of Indian immigrants. She worked as a civil and voting rights attorney who successfully defended Arizona election officials against a Republican challenge to Biden’s 2020 election.

Judge Gabriel Sanchez is an L.A. native who handled class-action litigation by prisoners as a senior advisor to California Gov. Jerry Brown. He previously served as an associate justice in the California Court of Appeal’s 1st Appellate District. Judge Salvador Mendoza Jr. is a former prosecutor and defense attorney who was appointed by Obama as a federal district judge.

Judge Holly Thomas, a Black civil rights attorney, previously served in a leadership role within the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

Biden’s seventh appointee is expected to be Anthony Johnstone, whom the president has nominated to replace Sidney Thomas, a Clinton appointee who is taking senior status.

Johnstone, a former clerk for Thomas, is a University of Montana law professor and former Montana solicitor.

It is uncommon for younger judges to leave the bench before being eligible for senior status, but it does happen — and Biden’s eighth appointment to the 9th Circuit is expected to come as the result of such a departure.

This month, Judge Paul Watford, an Obama appointee who is just 55, announced to his colleagues that he would be stepping down and probably going into private practice.

Whether Biden will have the chance to appoint additional judges to the court will depend in part on the results of his reelection bid and the career decisions of the six judges who are eligible for part-time status — three of whom were appointed by Clinton, and three by President George W. Bush.

With Democrats in control of the Senate and primed to help the president, those judges’ seats could be filled during Biden’s first term if they were to step aside soon, Tobias said.

“It won’t take that long to get the people through,” he said. “That’s important, because we don’t know what will happen in 2024 — and three judges can make a big difference.”

The three active judges appointed by Clinton who are eligible to take senior status are Ronald Gould, who is 76; Johnnie Rawlinson, who is 70; and Kim McLane Wardlaw, who is 68.

The court’s three active Bush-appointed judges eligible to take senior status are Milan Smith Jr., who is 80; Consuelo Callahan, who is 72; and Sandra Ikuta, who is 68.

Biden hails plans for East Coast tunnel fix

President visits aging Baltimore structure that may be replaced using federal funds.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — Greeted by the cheerful blare of a train horn, President Biden stood Monday before a decrepit rail tunnel he estimated he’d been through 1,000 times — fearing for decades that it might collapse.

“For years, people talked about fixing this tunnel,” Biden told a crowd in Baltimore. “Back in the early ’80s, I actually walked into the tunnel with some of the construction workers. ... This is a 150-year-old tunnel. You wonder how in the hell it’s still standing.”

“With the bipartisan infrastructure law, though, we’re finally getting it done.”

The president came to familiar terrain to promote his 2021 infrastructure law, a bipartisan win that is just now ramping up spending on major projects.

Biden said replacing the Baltimore and Potomac Tunnel could slash a 60-minute Baltimore-to-Washington commute in half, giving daily riders extra time with family and friends.

As a senator, he regularly journeyed home to Delaware on Amtrak through the tunnel. He rode “15% of the time with engineers,” he said, and had a key to get into the back of the trains.

The new tunnel will lead to 20,000 construction jobs, he said — “jobs for folks I used to think about as I took the train home at night.” It will also cut down on auto traffic and pollution, he noted.

The tunnel, which opened in 1873, when Ulysses S. Grant was president, connected Philadelphia and Washington by rail for the



ANDREW HARNIK Associated Press

PRESIDENT Biden visits the Baltimore and Potomac Tunnel to promote his infrastructure law, which funds improvement projects. As a senator, he commuted home to Delaware on the Amtrak train through the tunnel.

first time. But over time, it became more of a chokepoint than a lifeline. There’s only one tube, and trains need to slow to 30 mph to navigate a tight turn on the southern end.

When completed roughly a decade from now, the new tunnel is expected to have two tubes, with up to four tracks total, and allow trains to travel more than 100 mph. It will be named for Frederick Douglass, who escaped from slavery in Maryland and became a prominent abolitionist.

The total project, which includes related bridges and equipment modernization, could cost \$6 billion.

Biden also announced labor agreements intended to smooth the tunnel’s completion and ensure good wages for union workers, according to the White House.

No money has yet been awarded from the federal

infrastructure legislation. However, the law signed by Biden includes \$24 billion for rail improvements along the Northeast Corridor, and up to \$4.7 billion could be provided for the Baltimore tunnel, covering the majority of its cost.

Maryland has agreed to commit \$450 million for construction.

Even as Maryland officials attended Biden’s speech, there is local opposition to the project.

The group Residents Against the Tunnels, or RATT, opposes it out of concern that the construction, use of the tunnel for freight and noise and vibration from passing trains would be detrimental to the neighborhood above.

But for those who know Biden from his time on the train, the project reflects an approach earned over years of commuting challenges.

Gregg Weaver, 69, got to know Biden while working as a conductor during a 42-year career with Amtrak. When he was working the morning shift on a southbound train, they would sometimes have to hold the train at Baltimore Penn Station because of trouble ahead at the tunnel.

“How’s it look?” Biden would ask as he pondered his schedule on Capitol Hill.

“The tunnel can really complicate the whole thing,” said Weaver, who retired in 2013. “It’s a bottleneck.”

As for Biden, “he rode so much, he probably experienced everything there is to experience,” Weaver said.

Baltimore is the first of three trips this week that Biden has dedicated to infrastructure.

On Tuesday, the president will travel to New York to talk about plans for another new rail tunnel, this

one under the Hudson River.

On Friday, Biden is headed to Philadelphia, where the Democratic National Committee is holding its winter meeting to finalize the party’s primary schedule, and will be joined by Vice President Kamala Harris. The White House says his remarks will focus on replacing lead pipes, another key part of the infrastructure legislation.

Roughly 200,000 people rode through the Baltimore tunnel every workday before the COVID-19 pandemic. But because there are only two tracks, any maintenance or problem threatened to severely constrict travel.

Besides building a new tunnel, the project would rehabilitate the existing version, which was damaged by corrosive salt water that flooded in during Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

BUSINESS

How Stanford ties into FTX founder's bail

Crypto billionaire's parents put up house as collateral, but the university owns the land on which it sits.

By KIERA FELDMAN

Shortly before Christmas, FTX founder Samuel Bankman-Fried, indicted on federal charges of fraud and money laundering, was released on a \$250-million bail bond that was secured by his parents' Palo Alto-area home.

The size of the bail bond — 25 times bigger than Bernie Madoff's — garnered considerable attention. The prosecution termed it "the largest ever pretrial bond."

What hasn't drawn notice is the fact that Joseph Bankman and Barbara Fried, who are professors at Stanford Law School, are not typical homeowners. Their property is a faculty home on the Stanford campus itself. Stanford owns the land, and Bankman and Fried lease it.

Although the couple told the court that the five-bedroom, 3,000-square-foot home is worth \$3.55 million, the restrictions that come with owning a home on Stanford property make it difficult to gauge its market value via conventional means.

Were Bankman and Fried ever to sell their house — or were the government to take possession of it, in the event of a bail violation, and then have to sell it — the pool of potential buyers would be limited to other eligible Stanford faculty. Whatever the scenario, a sale would have to go through Stanford.

It's a curious circumstance that underscores the wide latitude granted in bail proceedings to wealthy, white defendants, in sharp contrast to the unforgiving terms that often keep poor people of color behind bars while they await trial.

"Prosecutors treat these white-collar cases totally differently than other cases," said Alison Siegler, a University of Chicago Law School professor. "There's a lack of equity in all of this."

While using a Stanford faculty home to secure bail may be unusual, the arrangement is perfectly legal. Likewise, there is nothing unorthodox in the size of a bail bond greatly exceeding the value of the assets used to secure it.

The \$250-million figure ascribed to Bankman-



FATIH AKTAS Anadolu Agency

FTX FOUNDER Sam Bankman-Fried, shown Jan. 3 in New York, faces charges of fraud and money laundering. His parents secured his release on a bond package that included a faculty home on the Stanford campus.

Fried's bond, experts said, was essentially just an arbitrary number.

"The goal is really for the parents to do everything possible to put themselves on the line," said Columbia University Law School professor Daniel Richman. Putting up the family home for bail is a way to secure the commitment of people close to Bankman-Fried who will help make sure he doesn't flee, said Richman, a former federal prosecutor. "It's almost symbolic in the sense that they're taking their most valuable asset and pledging it."

Stanford has more than 800 on-campus faculty homes. Only Stanford faculty members can buy them.

University publications explain faculty homes this way: Stanford faculty may "purchase a leasehold interest." Buyers sign a "ground lease" with the university, and then faculty members pay rent to Stanford and are responsible for paying all property taxes.

The arrangement is so complicated and arcane that the Santa Clara County assessor has an entire page devoted to Stanford faculty housing. This unique structure dates to the university's founding by Leland and Jane Stanford.

"Because the Founding Grant stipulates that campus land cannot be sold,

'It's so rare that anybody doesn't comply with these conditions when they're given the chance to ... go back to their family.'

— ALISON SIEGLER, University of Chicago Law School professor

those who buy a house on campus only lease the land beneath it," explained Stanford Magazine. According to the 2005 article, author David Leavitt grew up in the same house as Bankman-Fried and wrote a novel inspired by the "inheritance quandary" of on-campus faculty housing.

A Stanford faculty housing brochure explains, "The Stanfords' intention was to ensure that the land endowment to the University would exist in perpetuity."

The goal of campus housing, the brochure notes, is "fostering an academic community in residence."

As with many universities, faculty housing plays prominently in Stanford's recruitment efforts. Prospective faculty members

face a move to Palo Alto, where the average home price is \$3.5 million, according to Zillow.

Current Stanford faculty homes for sale include a four-bedroom, three-bathroom property for \$1,962,500 and a two-bedroom, two-bathroom property for \$870,000.

"No one could afford a house in Palo Alto but for these arrangements," said Richman, the Columbia professor. "Stanford, as part of its effort to lure them, gives them a perk of the job."

Bankman and Fried signed their 51-year lease with Stanford in 1991. A source familiar with the bail arrangement said that Bankman and Fried made the school aware of the use of the house as collateral.

A representative for Stanford said the university's permission was not needed to use the house for bail.

"Under the terms of their ground lease with the university, Joseph Bankman and Barbara Fried have the right to use their leasehold interest as collateral for the bond, just as they can encumber their leasehold interest with a mortgage. Neither situation requires approval from the university," Dee Mostofi, assistant vice president for external communications, said in a statement. "Accordingly, the uni-

versity did not give approval for Joseph Bankman and Barbara Fried to use their leasehold interest as collateral for the bond as no approval was required under their ground lease."

Stanford did not respond to a request for a copy of the lease agreement.

A representative for Bankman-Fried declined to comment.

Under federal law, defendants are presumed innocent, and pretrial release is supposed to be the standard. But in practice, the vast majority do not go home to their families. In 2019, 75% of federal defendants were detained awaiting their trials, according to data from the federal courts.

In "Freedom Denied," a recent report led by Siegler, the University of Chicago professor, court watchers found that judges were routinely unlawfully jailing poor people and imposing excessive financial conditions, with people of color significantly more likely to be jailed unlawfully on cash bails that they could not afford.

Under the federal Bail Reform Act of 1984, jailing people before a trial is supposed to be the exception, used only to ensure community safety and that defendants appear in court. But in the decades since, pretrial detention rates have skyrocketed.

Ford follows Tesla's lead in cutting EV prices

Mustang Mach-E electric SUVs will cost up to \$6,000 less. Will other carmakers make similar moves?

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ford Motor Co. is cutting prices on its Mustang Mach-E electric SUV by as much as \$6,000 just weeks after market leader Tesla took similar steps.

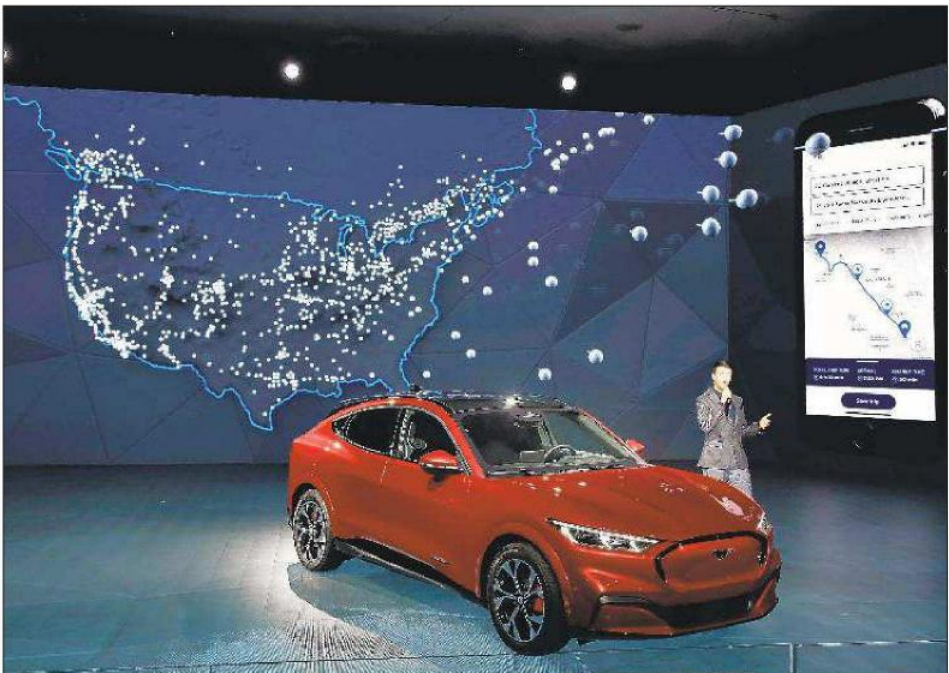
The Detroit automaker is increasing production of the Mach-E this year and said it is taking advantage of streamlined costs to reduce prices across the board, it said Monday.

The cut comes just over two weeks after Tesla dropped prices 6% to nearly 20% in the United States on most of its models in an effort to bolster demand and raise market share.

Ford's maneuver will almost certainly force other automakers to trim prices as well, touching off a bit of a price war for electric vehicles, said Jeff Schuster, president of global forecasting for LMC Automotive, a Detroit-area consulting firm.

"To remain price competitive to consumers, it's going to require a response from anyone who wants to play in this area," he said.

However, Schuster said he doesn't see an all-out price war that brings prices down even more. Automakers will try to protect profit



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ Associated Press

FORD WILL drop the price of the base Mustang Mach-E electric SUV by \$900 and the GT extended range by \$5,900. Above, a 2021 model at the L.A. Auto Show.

margins on EVs as their share of the U.S. market keeps growing, he said.

Although Ford didn't mention Tesla in its statement, the Dearborn, Mich., company said the price cuts are part of Ford's plan to keep the SUV competitive in a fast-changing market.

"We are not going to cede ground to anyone," said Marin Gijaja, chief customer officer of Ford Model e, the company's electric vehicle unit.

The price of a base rear-wheel-drive standard range Mach-E will drop \$900, to \$45,995 from \$46,895. The top-end GT extended range

will fall \$5,900, to \$63,995 from \$69,895. The prices don't include shipping, government fees or taxes.

On Jan. 13, Tesla slashed prices dramatically on several versions of its electric vehicles, making some of its models eligible for a new federal tax credit that could help spur buyer interest.

The company dropped prices nearly 20% in the United States on some versions of the Model Y SUV, its top seller. That cut will make more versions of the Model Y eligible for a \$7,500 electric-vehicle tax credit, which will be available through March. Tesla also reduced the base

price of the Model 3, its least expensive model, by about 6%.

The cuts were in response to slowing demand and Tesla's sagging stock price. But Chief Executive Elon Musk predicted they would yield stronger sales, with the company delivering 1.8 million vehicles this year, up 40% from 2022.

Ford said its price cuts are designed to make the Mach-E a more compelling option for EV customers and to grow the company's EV market share.

Nissan Motor Co., which has two EVs competing in the mainstream U.S. mar-

ket, the Ariya and Leaf, said it has no plans to change prices, at least not now. "Of course we're watching what's going on," said Brian Brockman, a company spokesman.

General Motors Co.'s Chevrolet brand, which will have four EV model lines for sale by the end of this year, said it had no pricing announcements coming.

Messages were left Monday seeking comment from Hyundai and Kia, two other large competitors in the mainstream EV market.

The auto industry is seeing the cost of many raw materials decline, and that will help companies to trim prices, Schuster said. Shipping costs for parts also have dropped, he said.

The price cuts touched off by Tesla are different from the way the auto industry used to try to stimulate sales — keeping the price the same but offering discounts, Schuster said. The cuts, he said, are generating headlines and will get customers in the door to look.

They also are likely to last longer than spot discounts, he said. "You're not likely to see the price increase in a month, or two months, or six months, at least before the next model year" in late summer, Schuster said.

Ford said customers who ordered Mach-Es and are awaiting delivery will automatically get the lower prices. The company will reach out directly to those who already have their vehicles with a sale date after Jan. 1.

Siegler points to what she terms a "culture of detention" in which prosecutors ask for pretrial detention as a matter of course, and judges grant it without question, according to her research.

But, in the Bankman-Fried bail hearing, Siegler noted that the prosecution took a different approach. The government said that Bankman-Fried had agreed to extradition from the Bahamas and had "family and community ties" and that risk to the community wasn't a concern.

"This is an insane transcript to read because the argument the government is making is typically the kind of argument the defense would be making," Siegler said. "Here, the prosecution is advocating to the judge to let this guy out pending trial. Usually, they're advocating just the opposite."

From the transcript, Siegler noted that it appeared that Bankman-Fried's lawyers probably negotiated with the government to agree to extradition in exchange for pretrial release in a bail package.

In addition to the family home, Bankman-Fried's bail package included hard cash: Two people whose names are under seal paid \$500,000 and \$200,000, respectively, to secure his release.

Whereas Bankman-Fried had a legal team to handle high-level bail negotiations, by comparison, more than 90% of federal defendants can't afford an attorney, according to a 2017 judicial report. Additionally, more than a quarter of the nation's district courts do not ensure that people are represented at their first court appearance, according to "Freedom Denied."

Bankman-Fried's trial is to begin in October. Meanwhile, the terms of his bail require, among other things, that he surrender his passport, wear an electronic monitoring device and remain at his parents' home. A far cry from federal detention, he will be confined to a five-bedroom, three-bathroom house that is just over 3,000 square feet on nearly an acre lot with a pool and a hot tub, records show.

Bankman-Fried's bail agreement is similar to that of Madoff, the financier who was accused of operating a \$50-billion Ponzi scheme and received a 150-year sentence after being convicted of fraud and other crimes. Released on bail, Madoff had a nightly curfew but was free to travel during the day throughout Connecticut, southern New York and Long Island, according to the New York Times. Madoff secured his release using homes that were in his wife's name.

If Bankman-Fried were to flee, the government could take his parents' house. "What they'd be getting is ownership of the house. And not of the land," said Richman, the Columbia professor. The government would then have to work with Stanford to sell the house to a buyer who met Stanford's eligibility criteria, Richman said.

In a Jan. 4 filing, Bankman and Fried told the court that the equity interest in their home was \$3.55 million, and they guaranteed that they would pay that amount if their son violated the terms of his bond.

Currently, more than 100,000 people remain in federal detention awaiting trial. According to Department of Justice data, 99% of people charged with a federal crime and released pretrial show up in court, and 98% do not commit crimes.

"It's so rare that anybody doesn't comply with these conditions when they're given the chance to be released and go back to their family," Siegler said.

Bankman-Fried, in the words of prosecutors, "perpetrated a fraud of epic proportions, stealing billions of dollars."

"If we're comfortable releasing somebody accused of a crime of this magnitude," Siegler said, "that should really make us question why we're locking so many people in jail pending trial who are accused of far less serious crimes."

Times staff writer Adam Elmahrek contributed to this report.

Metro digital sign plan meets opposition

[Signs, from A1] bottlenecks. It has the potential to generate \$300 million to \$500 million in advertising income over a 20-year span, Metro officials said.

Under the plan, seven of every eight images on the digital signs would show advertising, said Holly Rockwell, a senior executive officer at Metro who oversees the real estate program.

The ad revenue would be split 50-50 with the city of L.A., she said, with the proceeds going toward rail, bus and other transportation programs.

“It’s money coming from a private source, not from the taxes of taxpayers,” Rockwell added.

Foes of the initiative contend that a barrage of digital signs — many of them 48 feet wide, with images changing every eight seconds — will undermine the city’s restrictions on new digital billboards.

L.A. streets, which had more than 300 traffic deaths last year, will become even more perilous for bicyclists, drivers and pedestrians, those opponents say.

“Changing digital images distract drivers, and distracted drivers cause accidents — accidents that kill, maim, injure,” said Barbara Broide, co-president of the Coalition for a Beautiful Los Angeles.

Metro’s environmental team reached a different conclusion, saying it found no correlation between the types of digital billboards they plan to install and traffic safety. The agency’s board, including Mayor Karen Bass, last week signed off on the environmental analysis of the sign program.

Backers of the program said at least 2 square feet of existing non-electronic billboards would be taken down each time 1 square foot of digital signs goes up. That



MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

METRO says its proposed digital billboard program could generate \$300 million to \$500 million in advertising income over a 20-year span, with proceeds going toward rail, bus and other transportation programs.

effort will “greatly reduce the total number of signs on Metro property while providing Metro passengers and the public with real-time information on travel conditions,” said Hugh Esten, spokesperson for City Council President Paul Krekorian, who serves on the agency’s board.

Opponents are contemplating a legal challenge. The political fight, Broide said, is moving to City Hall.

Over the next year, city officials are expected to consider zoning changes that would determine how many of Metro’s proposed digital

signs would be allowed and what their hours of operation would be.

That ordinance would go before the planning commission, then to the mayor and City Council, according to Nora Frost, a spokesperson for the Department of City Planning.

Under Metro’s plan, about a dozen sign structures would go up in and around downtown, including one at 4th and Hill streets near Grand Central Market and one in Little Tokyo across from the Japanese American National Museum. Some structures

would have signs facing both directions; others would be single-sided.

Councilmember Kevin de León, who represents much of downtown, on Monday declined to endorse the initiative.

“Right now there are still too many factors in Metro’s proposed plan that leave me unsettled about supporting it, like details about signs that don’t face freeways or the impacts on high-injury network locations,” he said in a statement.

About a dozen sign structures are planned for the San Fernando Valley, includ-

ing one near protected natural habitat in the Sepulveda Basin. Others have been proposed for near Elysian Park north of downtown and the Ballona Wetlands on the Westside.

Environmentalists have voiced alarm in recent weeks over plans for a digital sign near a piece of property known as the Bowtie parcel. That property, not far from the Los Angeles River, is slated to be restored as parkland and natural habitat in the coming years.

Travis Longcore, co-chair of UCLA’s environmental science and engi-

neering program, said light from a digital sign would disrupt natural habitat, causing migratory birds to veer from their paths and disturbing the sleep patterns of other animals.

“The city, the federal government and, to some degree, the county are investing millions of dollars to restore habitat in the L.A. River,” he said. “It is antithetical to then go ahead and blast it with huge television screens.”

Digital billboards have long been a hot-button issue at City Hall.

In 2002, the council sharply restricted the locations where new billboards could go up, limiting them to certain districts. That law became the subject of a lawsuit, and four years later, the council reached a settlement that allowed two advertising companies to install hundreds of new digital signs.

The influx of brightly illuminated signs, some of them shining into homes, sparked a neighborhood backlash. The city’s legal settlement was eventually struck down in court.

Metro officials say their environmental analysis found that light from its new digital signs would have a “less than significant” impact on birds and other forms of wildlife. They contend that the program will serve the public by ensuring that scores of older billboards are replaced by “modern” signs that use LED technology and incorporate louvers to focus the light.

“The billboards we put up will have less of an impact on an area than the ones we take down,” said Rockwell, the Metro official.

Nevertheless, Metro’s environmental analysis also concluded that some of the signs would have a significant and unavoidable effect on aesthetics, “substantially” degrading the visual character of the city’s non-urbanized areas.

Some of the proposed signs would also have a significant impact on historic resources, including the 4th Street Bridge in downtown L.A., the North Spring Street Bridge in Lincoln Heights and Little Tokyo’s business district, according to Metro’s analysis.

New digital signs would “impede visibility of and thus detract from the character-defining features” of those historic locations, the analysis said.

Some foes question whether the agency could have pursued a better deal for the public.

Patrick Frank, president of the L.A. chapter of Scenic America, said he views Metro’s sign program as a “giveaway” to the outdoor advertising industry.

Digital signs, he said, are several times more lucrative than the non-electronic ones that Metro plans to take down. While digital billboards can show eight images within a minute, static ones typically show the same ad for a month, he said.

Frank said Metro should have endorsed a more aggressive “takedown ratio,” requiring the removal of 10 square feet of existing billboards each time one square foot of digital sign goes up.

Metro officials said they view the 2-to-1 takedown ratio as a minimum and hope to remove a greater amount of billboard space in the coming years.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Stocks sink ahead of word from Fed, earnings reports

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stocks sank Monday as Wall Street prepped for a week full of potentially market-moving events, including decisions on interest rates around the world and earnings reports from the biggest U.S. companies.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 index dropped 1.3%, giving back some of the gains that had carried it last week to its highest level since early December. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.8%, while the Nasdaq composite sank 2%.

Markets have been veering recently on worries that the economy and corporate profits may be set for a steep drop-off, along with competing hopes that cooling inflation will get the Federal Reserve to take it easier on interest rates.

The central bank’s next decision on rates is coming Wednesday, and most investors expect it to announce an increase of just 0.25 percentage points. That would be the smallest in-

crease in nearly a year, following a spate of hikes of 0.75 points and then a 0.50-point increase, and it would mean less added pressure on the economy.

Higher rates combat inflation by intentionally slowing the economy, while also being a drag on prices for investments. Inflation has been cooling since the summer amid last year’s blizzard of rate hikes, but the economy has also been showing signs of concern.

The big question is whether Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell afterward will give markets what they want — hints that rate hikes will end soon and rate cuts may even be possible late this year — or stick to the Fed’s mantra that it plans to keep rates higher for longer, even if a modest recession hits.

“I think that they have no intention of cutting rates this year,” said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA Research, adding that the Fed waits an average of roughly nine months after its last rate hike before cutting.

“They’ll reiterate that they don’t want to make the mistakes of the 1970s,” he said, “but I think in the back of their minds, they’re going to say no matter which inflationary indicator you look at, they’re all heading in a stair-step downward pattern.”

Central banks for Europe and for the United Kingdom are also set to announce their latest decisions on rate increases this week.

Beyond interest rates, more than 100 companies in the S&P 500 are scheduled this week to report results for the last three months of 2022. Among them are tech heavyweights Apple, Amazon and Google’s parent company, Alphabet. Because these companies are three of the four biggest on Wall Street by market value, their stock movements hold much more sway on the S&P 500 than others’.

Apple’s 2% drop Monday, for example, was the heaviest weight on the S&P 500.

The only other company that rivals them in size, Microsoft, shook Wall Street

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	33,717.09	-260.99	-0.77	+1.72
S&P 500	4,017.77	-52.79	-1.30	+4.64
Nasdaq composite	11,393.81	-227.90	-1.96	+8.86
S&P 400	2,590.67	-28.80	-1.10	+6.60
Russell 2000	1,885.72	-25.74	-1.35	+7.07
EuroStoxx 50	4,159.55	-16.25	-0.39	+9.68
Nikkei (Japan)	27,433.40	+50.84	+0.19	+5.13
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	22,069.73	-619.17	-2.73	+11.57

Associated Press

last week when it gave forecasts that raised worries about a slowdown in corporate spending on tech. Its stock fell 2.2% on Monday.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 52.79 points to 4,017.77. The Dow lost 260.99 points to close at 33,717.09, and the Nasdaq dropped 227.90 points to 11,393.81.

Strategists at Morgan Stanley led by Michael Wilson warn that tougher times may be ahead.

“The reality is that earnings are proving to be even worse than feared based on the data, especially as it relates to margins,” they wrote in a report. “Secondly, investors seem to have forgotten the cardinal rule of ‘Don’t Fight the Fed.’ Perhaps this week will serve as a reminder.”

Later this week, the U.S. government will also give its latest monthly update on the job market. Hiring has remained remarkably resili-

ent across the broad economy, even as housing and other corners weaken sharply under the weight of all the Fed’s rate hikes from last year.

Some big tech companies have announced high-profile layoffs after acknowledging that they misread their boom coming out of the pandemic. But job cuts may be starting to spread to other areas of the economy. Hasbro and 3M last week announced layoffs.

All told, economists expect Friday’s report to show that U.S. employers added 187,500 more jobs than they cut during January. That would be a slowdown from December’s net hiring of 223,000.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 3.53% from 3.51% late Friday. The two-year yield, which tends to move more on expectations of Fed actions, rose to 4.25% from 4.20%.

Apple execs, policies violated worker rights, NLRB says

Agency cites efforts to ID leakers of company secrets as one way the tech giant chills collective action.

By JOSH EIDELSON

Comments by Apple Inc. executives and policies imposed on employees have been deemed illegal by National Labor Relations Board prosecutors, who say they violate workers’ rights.

The board’s general counsel’s office has determined that “various work rules” imposed by the tech giant “tend to interfere with, restrain or coerce employees” from exercising their rights to collective action, NLRB spokesperson Kayla Blado said Monday. The agency “found merit to a charge alleging statements and conduct by Apple — including high-level execu-

tives — also violated the National Labor Relations Act.”

Unless Apple settles, the board’s regional director will issue a complaint against the Cupertino, Calif., company, Blado said in an email.

The dispute was brought to the agency by former employee Ashley Gjovik, who filed claims in 2021 alleging that an email Chief Executive Tim Cook sent pledging to punish leakers, as well as a set of policies in Apple’s employee handbook, violated federal law. Gjovik’s filings cited policies restricting staff from disclosing “business information,” talking to reporters, revealing coworkers’ compensation or posting impolite tweets.

In his all-staff email, sent in September 2021, Cook wrote that “people who leak confidential information do not belong here.” Cook’s message said that Apple was “doing everything in our power to identify those who leaked” and that it didn’t “tolerate disclosures of con-

fidential information, whether it’s product IP or the details of a confidential meeting.”

His email followed media reports about a company-wide meeting the prior week at which management fielded questions about topics such as pay equity and Texas’ antiabortion law.

Apple didn’t immediately respond to requests for comment Monday on the NLRB’s finding.

At a hearing this month, company attorney Jason Stanevich said, “Apple fosters an open and inclusive work environment whereby employees are not just permitted, but encouraged, to share their feelings and thoughts on a range of issues, from social justice topics to pay equity to anything else that they feel is an important cause to promote in the workplace.”

U.S. labor law protects workers’ rights to communicate with one another and engage in collective action

about workplace issues.

Complaints issued by NLRB prosecutors are reviewed by administrative law judges, whose rulings can be appealed to labor board members in Washington — and, from there, to federal court. The agency lacks the ability to impose punitive damages or hold executives personally liable for violations, but it can order companies to change workplace policies.

Apple, the world’s most valuable company, has faced an unusual wave of public dissent in recent years among its white-collar staff, as well as unprecedented organizing campaigns by retail employees, who voted to unionize last year in Maryland and Oklahoma.

NLRB prosecutors in recent months have also found merit in complaints that Apple illegally coerced workers at its retail stores in Atlanta and New York City, where some employees were seeking to unionize. The com-

pany has denied wrongdoing.

Gjovik, a senior engineering program manager, was fired by Apple in September 2021 after filing complaints with several state and federal agencies.

In documents shared by Gjovik, Apple said she was terminated for violating policies such as the disclosure of confidential product information. Gjovik has said she was fired in retaliation for her complaints that — after voicing fears about workplace health hazards — she was harassed, humiliated and asked not to tell coworkers about her concerns.

“My hope is that for the first time Apple is told by the government that this culture of secrecy is not OK,” Gjovik said Monday. “I also hope that this sends shock waves through other corporations that even Apple can be held accountable.”

Eidelson writes for Bloomberg.

ATTORNEYS



WORKPLACE RIGHTS

- Discrimination
- Harassment
- Wrongful Termination
- Retaliation
- Disability
- Pregnancy Leave

NO RECOVERY = NO FEE

Call for FREE Consultation

310-273-3180

KSM

Kesluk, Silverstein, Jacob & Morrison
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

9255 Sunset Blvd., #411, L.A., CA 90069

www.californialaborlawattorney.com

What the Tyre Nichols video doesn't show

It makes clear the assault by Memphis officers was violent, but does not support the broad claims about policing reform or race that some have made

THE VIDEO of Memphis, Tenn., police pulling Tyre Nichols from his car and beating him show a gratuitous and vicious assault on an unarmed motorist who appears to try his best to cooperate. There are also things the video of the fatal Jan. 7 traffic stop doesn't show, despite efforts by officials and activists to find evidence to back their various assertions about policing in the U.S.

Here are five claims unsupported by the four separate video recordings:

“Race is off the table.”
Nichols was Black, and so are the five officers who attacked him and who were quickly fired and charged with second-degree murder. (A sixth officer, who is white, was suspended Monday pending the outcome of an investigation.) The departure from the sickeningly common narrative of white officers killing unarmed Black civilians has led some to claim that race was not a factor in this incident, or even in other police killings of unarmed Black men in recent years. “It takes off the table that issues and problems in law enforcement [are] about race,” Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn Davis, who is Black, told CNN’s Don Lemon.

Yet white drivers are rarely, if ever, pulled from their cars and beaten to death without provocation by police officers of any race. The Memphis video demonstrates merely that Black officers can as easily as their white counterparts become instruments of a brutal law enforcement system that was largely shaped by historical white privilege. The argument that the officers in the Nichols killing proved race was not an issue has little more validity than a claim that, say, a few Black slave masters in pre-Civil War Charleston, S.C., proved slavery was not rooted in race. It obviously was.

Race, in all its complexities, is a basic factor in unequal distribution of wealth and

political power, which inevitably makes it an issue in law enforcement, no matter the color of individual police officers. And the race of the victims remains a central factor. Even Davis, who tried to sweep race off the table, acknowledged that “bias might be a factor [in] the manner in which we engage the community.”

“You can’t reform that.”
This is a slogan often repeated by police abolitionists who argue that atrocities such as the Nichols killing prove no reform can end needlessly violent police attacks. They say that “reform” efforts simply divert an ever-greater share of public funding from schools, jobs and healthcare toward police — for technology such as body-worn cameras and training that never seem to stop police killings.

Actually, the video suggests that failed training and supervision (and monumental incompetence) were at the core of the Memphis incident. When the special unit to which the now-fired officers belonged made its debut, Davis, the police chief, emphasized crackdowns on reckless driving. So the officers seemed to believe that getting tough on traffic offenses was central to their job. On Thursday, Davis said there was no proof that Nichols had committed any such offense when he was pulled over.

These failures can and must be reformed. Attentive leaders would ensure that

the department recruits and hires officers who are emotionally mature and unlikely to resort to excessive force, and that they are properly trained and supervised by more experienced officers. Justice Department intervention and court oversight may be necessary to force those reforms if department leaders can’t impose them on their own. Reforms might include a reduced police footprint in some areas, especially in traffic stops. But Memphis is one of a handful of cities that already took a step toward police defunding and downsizing in recent years (after beefing up its ranks), with uniformly bad results.

“It’s just a few bad apples.”
The Memphis video is proof to many police organizations that the beating was well outside the scope of professional norms, much as when Derek Chauvin went rogue when he crushed the life from George Floyd in Minneapolis in 2020. “This is not representative of those who wear the law enforcement uniform and take an oath to protect and keep their fellow citizens safe,” read a statement from the National Sheriffs’ Assn. on the Nichols killing. If the Memphis officers and others like them are weeded out of police departments, the law enforcement establishment argues, the good cops can do their work with minimal change to current police standards.

But five rogue officers acting in concert?

No. The depraved acts shown on the video are evidence of department culture, not a few bad apples. The Memphis Police Department signed on to a set of reforms that the officers blatantly violated: de-escalating, intervening, using verbal commands before resorting to physical force. Either the officers weren’t trained to follow their department’s policy, or they lacked the supervision to ensure they did.

“Nothing has changed.”
After viewing the sickening video, it’s natural to conclude that nothing in policing has changed since the killing of George Floyd. But the quick release of the body-cam video, and the firing and criminal charges against the Memphis officers, would have been unthinkable three years ago. Arresting police on murder charges is no longer a novelty.

But the truth is that too little has changed. Something made these five officers believe they were entitled to assault Nichols the way they did: the degradation, the aggression, the pepper spray, the electric shocks, and finally the kicking and clubbing that never seem to end.

“If only he had complied.”
A frequent police response to public outcry over fatal force is that the victim would be alive today if only they had complied with officers’ orders.
The Memphis video puts the lie to this claim. It shows Nichols complying with every order despite the cruel assault. He does not resist until, amid the brutal and baseless attack, he breaks loose and runs away. Any sensible person might have done the same upon seeing that compliance is not respected.
In the wake of the video, the only proper response to police who still oppose efforts to transform their practices and their profession is the same command they too often bark at innocent civilians: Stop resisting.

LETTERS



Anadolu Agency

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE gather in Oakland on Jan. 29 to protest the beating death of Tyre Nichols by police officers in Memphis, Tenn., this month.

A deadly police subculture

Re “Video depicts savage beating by policemen,” Jan. 28

I’M AT A COMPLETE LOSS as to what, if anything, the Memphis cops who mercilessly beat Tyre Nichols to death learned from the Minneapolis cops who murdered George Floyd, the Louisville cops who killed Breonna Taylor, the Chicago cops who shot Michael Elam, or the L.A. cops who Tasered Keenan Anderson to death.

Society must finally recognize that too many police officers constitute a law enforcement subculture, where those who hide behind badges and guns inflict brutality with impunity. Only then might lasting reform and accountability take root.

Just how much more of this barbarity in blue must we put up with?
TOM STAPLETON, Glendale

This murder in Memphis illustrates what many people have been saying for a long time now. Yes, racist cops do exist, but there is a fundamental problem with policing.

What is the character of people hired as officers? Why are so many cops unable to show respect? Why do they think themselves better than the people they interact with? Why can’t they empathize with the human being being placed under arrest?

And where is their self-control? Why can’t they control their anger, their misogyny or their racism? What kind of people are they?

CHERYL YOUNGER
Los Angeles

::

Am I missing something here regarding the Memphis paramedics who responded to Nichols’ beating?

I certainly agree with the decision to fire, then arrest the Memphis officers, but

what about the nonchalance shown by those summoned to treat Nichols? It seems the only immediate action paramedics took was to re-prop Nichols against a car.

I believe these “first responders” should also be prosecuted for their inaction.

Would immediate care have saved Nichols’ life? We’ll never know.

JOANNE BERG
La Cañada Flintridge

::

Many heinous police beatings begin with a traffic stop, so let’s take our police off the traffic beat and create a team of friendly, unarmed traffic enforcers on motorcycles clad in yellow vests and armed only with cameras.

Taking our armed police off the traffic beat would save money and allow them to focus on serious crimes while avoiding violent confrontations with innocent motorists. Drivers would be

more inclined to cooperate with unarmed traffic enforcers, and if they did evade these enforcers, they’d be recorded and police could be dispatched.

We decided to do this with parking enforcement decades ago; now it’s time to do the same with traffic enforcement.

ROB JACOBS
Los Angeles

::

I watched the sickening video of thugs in police uniforms mercilessly beating Nichols for no reason other than, apparently, they believed they had the right to do so.

Enough with the empty promises to reform police procedures and tactics. The only thing that will put a serious damper on the abusive conduct of police is to charge, convict and imprison officers every time they engage in such criminal conduct.

M.L. GOODMAN
Long Beach

Why does Tesla still dominate?

Re “EV sales are zooming. Too bad they’re mostly Teslas,” editorial, Jan. 29

The reason electric vehicle sales are mostly Teslas isn’t because they are more expensive or because the company’s chief executive is an abrasive right-wing jerk. The reason is that the company does not have a competing internal combustion engine (ICE) business.

The established auto industry does not make EVs that compete well with their ICE cars. They fear the cost of retooling their factories, and their dealer networks are terrified of reworking their business model.

As a result, their EVs are styled strangely and they are not producing a significant number of EVs or supporting charging networks. Dealers are not selling very many of the cars.

Unless the ICE companies wake up and see in their heart-of-hearts that the age of oil is passing, they will flounder.

CHARLES DUNN
Pasadena

::

Here’s another reason why the glut of Teslas on the road dissuades people from buying less expensive EVs.

The vast majority of public charging stations use a standard plug different from Tesla’s proprietary plug. Tesla includes an adapter with its cars that allows drivers to plug in at both non-Tesla chargers and Tesla-only Super-charger stations.

So, when we non-Tesla owners who cannot charge at home try to find a public station to use, odds are that many of the chargers within a fair radius of our homes are already in use by Tesla owners.

Don’t get me wrong: Tesla drivers have as much right to charge their vehicles as I do. But it is unfair for them to overcrowd the charging infrastructure used by the rest of us who have no choice in plug type.

Potential EV owners probably scope out the availability of charging stations before buying and see all those Teslas tying up the chargers that they would need to use. If Tesla is

the dominant brand, the charging stations designed for their use need to become as plentiful as the ones designed for the rest of us EV owners.

KYMBERLEIGH
RICHARDS
Van Nuys

::

Though I understand the editorial board’s concern about Teslas being out of many drivers’ price range, I favor letting the marketplace play this one out.

Here’s why: If about 20% of new car sales are EVs, that means (simplified) that the air is 20% cleaner than it would be otherwise.

My husband and I are in the market for an EV. I am paying attention to charging stations, which seem to pop up frequently in shopping centers, museum parking lots and anywhere people will be staying a while. Some of these are Tesla-only; others are universal.

Eventually, charging stations will become more common, and other automakers will jump in. And then there will be a used EV market for people who prefer pre-owned cars — either because of a tight budget, or because they’d rather save their money for exotic travel. (I haven’t bought a new car in 45 years.)

Diane Scholfield
Vista

::

Spaghetti straps and smartphones

Re “When it comes to dress codes, girls aren’t equal,” Opinion, Jan. 27

I have eight years as the dad of high school daughters, and seven years ago I became a high school teacher. Between my permanent assignments, summer school teaching and substitute teaching, I have been in the classrooms of 11 high school campuses.

From my experiences, I have found two things involving the way girls dress.

First, more often than not, the “objectionable clothing” was purchased by Mom. Second, I have never seen nor heard of any evidence that a boy was distracted by a girl’s “revealing” clothing.

There is one big distraction

teachers fight every day: phones. If parents would simply block smartphone apps during the school day, that would make a world of difference more than worrying about a bare shoulder or midriff.

DAVID LYNN
Agoura Hills

::

Of course girls aren’t equal when it comes to dress codes.

Girls should not be wearing the “spaghetti straps, tank tops, crop tops and low-cut tops” that Minerva Canto lists as prohibited. They should not be in attire that belongs in a nightclub or is considered provocative for all the obvious reasons that boys should not wear saggy jeans with their underwear showing.

Canto says, “Such emphasis on girls’ outfits is harming the learning environment.” When the learning environment is sexualized, it is harmful for boys and girls. It is rare that the jeans and T-shirts often worn by boys can be considered provocative — which is why girls’ attire is judged differently.

I am the furthest thing from a prude, but provocative clothing does not belong in a school. Maybe schools should just return to uniforms.

LENI CORWIN
Altadena

::

If, as Canto writes, the “emphasis on girls’ outfits is harming the learning environment,” then here’s a novel idea: school uniforms.

Allow polo shirts, Dickies-style pants, Bermuda shorts, school-themed sweatshirts and cardigan sweaters. Tennis shoes can be of any type or color.

Every student is on even dress fashion ground and therefore can concentrate on lessons more than dress code issues.

Want to express yourself? Do it with the shoes. Now get to class.

CHRIS JUNGELS
San Clemente

::

HOW TO WRITE TO US

Please send letters to letters@latimes.com. For submission guidelines, see latimes.com/letters or call 1-800-LA TIMES, ext. 74511.



Los Angeles Times
FOUNDED DECEMBER 4, 1881
A California Times Publication

Executive Chairman Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong

News: Executive Editor Kevin Merida • Managing Editors Shani O. Hilton, Sara Yasin • Editor at Large Scott Kraft • Deputy Managing Editors Hector Becerra, Shelby Grad, Sharon Matthews, Christian Stone, Julia Turner • Creative Director Amy King • Assistant Managing Editors John Canalis, Steve Clow, Angel Jennings, Kimbriell Kelly, Iliana Limón Romero, Loree Matsui, Samantha Melbourneweaver, Ben Muessig, Craig Nakano, B.J. Terhune • General Manager, Food Laurie Ochoa • General Manager, Latino Initiatives Angel Rodriguez • Opinion: Editorial Page Editor Terry Tang • Deputy Editorial Page Editor Mariel Garza • Business: President and Chief Operating Officer Chris Argentieri • Chief Human Resources Officer Nancy V. Antoniou • Chief of Staff, Head of Strategy and Revenue Anna Magzanyan • Chief Information Officer Ghalib Kassam • General Counsel Jeff Glasser • V.P., Communications Hillary Manning

OP-ED

Will the world fail to prevent another genocide?

Azerbaijan’s attacks on Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh echo the tragedy that befell the Bosnian city of Srebrenica

By Mary Papazian and Vatche Sahakian

THE WORLD WATCHED and allowed a brutal genocide three decades ago in the Bosnian city of Srebrenica. A tragically similar crisis is looming again. Global leaders know how this could end, and they have no excuse to stand by. Indeed, they are bound by law and human decency to intervene and protect the 120,000 civilians in the Armenian-majority Republic of Artsakh.

Upon the breakup of the former Yugoslavia 30 years ago, Bosnia declared independence. The Serbian central government responded by launching a brutal military campaign to crush Bosnia’s attempt at self-determination.

The conflict reached a critical point with the siege of Srebrenica, whose residents included a Bosnian self-defense force and many civilians. During the siege, the United Nations provided some emergency supplies, but hardly enough to meet the needs of the besieged population. Following a period of starvation, in July 1995, Serbian forces entered the city and began killing civilians. The Srebrenica genocide was underway.

Later trials at the International Court of Justice affirmed that this was genocide, and the Dutch Supreme Court held the Netherlands responsible for some of the deaths for not trying hard enough to stop the killings.

Around the time Bosnia declared independence, the Soviet Union was collapsing, and Soviet republics declared their own independence. An autonomous enclave within Soviet Azerbaijan known as Nagorno-Karabakh,

which had a majority-Armenian population, also declared its intention to exercise its right to self-determination.

The Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, a minority group within Soviet Azerbaijan, were subjected to decades of abuse and pogroms. Following the enclave’s declaration of independence, with eerie echoes of events unfolding in Bosnia, the Azeri government mounted a similar operation of ethnic cleansing and launched an attack on the enclave’s Armenian population.

After several years of war, the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians prevailed and in 1995 formed an independent democratic state known as the Republic of Artsakh, based on the ancient pre-Stalin name of the region. For the next 25 years, the unrecognized democratic Republic of Artsakh engaged effectively with international institutions and European oversight bodies to enhance governance and civil society infrastructure. Four presidents were elected in elections monitored by European nongovernmental organizations. A vibrant press operated freely, and a spectrum of political parties participated in the parliament.

During this same period, Azerbaijan embraced authoritarianism, becoming a petro-dictatorship governed by one family from 1993 to today. Azerbaijan is 167th out of 180 in the most recent Reporters Without Borders ranking for press freedoms. Human Rights Watch has called the human rights situation in Azerbaijan “appalling,” with the government “severely curtailing freedoms of association, expression and assembly” and “torture and

ill-treatment” of journalists, lawyers and opposition activists. Azerbaijan also has nurtured a culture of “Armenophobia” in its schools and state institutions and was sanctioned by the International Court of Justice for this practice.

In 2020, emboldened with oil and gas revenue, Azerbaijan launched a successful attack on Artsakh. With the direct involvement of Turkey, Azerbaijan succeeded in overrunning most of the territory controlled by the Armenians. The war ended with a truce brokered by Russia that left Artsakh on a fraction of its historic territories, a single land corridor linking it to Armenia and the outside world. Since the 2020 peace agreement, this Lachin corridor has been monitored by Russian peacekeepers to secure the transport of people and goods into and out of the enclave.

On Dec. 12, 2022, with war escalating in Ukraine, the Azerbaijani government launched a siege against Artsakh’s Armenian population by blocking the Lachin corridor, inflicting collective punishment on 120,000 civilians. The monthlong siege has resulted in school closures, severe food shortages and rationing of electricity and natural gas for heating. Essential medications are scarce, families have been separated, hospital patients in need of critical treatment have died. Other than the occasional shuttling of critically ill patients out of the region through the help of the Red Cross, Azerbaijan has blocked all movement into and out of Artsakh.

The parallels with the siege of Srebrenica are haunting. The Azerbaijani dictator, Ilham Aliyev,

stated in a TV interview Jan. 10 that his government aimed to depopulate the region of the Armenians of Artsakh. These statements and the blockade of the Lachin corridor led a group of scientists and academics to declare: “As scholars studying the genocide process, we believe that the actions of the Azerbaijani government pose a threat of genocide to Armenians in the region.”

This impending catastrophe is deservedly drawing attention: The European Court of Human Rights applied interim measures against Azerbaijan over this blockade; the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights called for its urgent lifting; and Amnesty International, the European Union, Brazil, France, Germany, Greece, the Helsinki Commission, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the United States and USAID have separately called for the immediate lifting of the siege. Yet no concrete intervention is on the horizon.

As the world learned in Srebrenica, inaction is complicity. The siege against the Armenian population of Artsakh is a crime against humanity and a prelude to genocide. Signatory nations of the Geneva Convention of 1948 are legally required to intervene before it is too late.

More than 160 scholars recently signed a public statement demanding intervention through immediate airlifts of supplies; creation of an international mandate for Artsakh to protect the local population from ethnic cleansing and genocide; and economic sanctions targeting the corrupt ruling elite in Azerbaijan.

Artsakh today is the face of the conflict between democracy and autocracy, transparency and corruption, and freedom and oppression. The parallels with Srebrenica should end now. The world cannot pretend ignorance. Failure to protect Artsakh’s civilian population is complicity in its destruction.

MARY PAPAZIAN is a former president and professor of English at San Jose State University. VATCHE SAHAKIAN is a professor of theoretical physics at Harvey Mudd College and a visiting professor at Caltech.

Of course Ukraine’s fight makes the U.S. more secure

JONAH GOLDBERG

WE ARE ENTERING the 12th month of a “special military operation” that was supposed to be over in well under 12 days. The Kremlin even told Russian officers to pack dress uniforms and medals for the intended military parades in Kyiv a few days after the shooting started.

Things turned out differently. By launching the first land war in Europe since 1945 with the expressed intent to stop both the expansion of NATO eastward and the political and economic migration of Ukraine westward, Putin’s adventure is already well on its way to being remembered as one of the great strategic blunders in living memory.

Sweden and Finland — which shares more than 800 miles of border with Russia — are applying to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The process to admit Ukraine to the European Union is underway, and Ukraine’s military is rapidly switching to newer, better and NATO-compatible weapons. Germany, which recently agreed to ship tanks to Ukraine, has jettisoned much of its non-interventionist foreign policy and committed to much more robust defense spending. Putin’s long-standing strategy of using energy to hold Western Europe hostage has largely backfired.

China, which made a big show of its “no limits” partnership with its neighbor, has so far offered extremely limited support for Russia. It’s almost as if the Beijing government is embarrassed by its ally’s pathetic showing — which appears to have taken the Chinese leaders by surprise.

In short, these are wildly momentous events, which mostly rebound to the benefit of American national security. But you wouldn’t necessarily know that from political debates about Ukraine. Indeed, there’s an otherworldly aspect to the whole conversation.

For instance, going into the midterms, Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield), now the House speaker, settled on the talking point that Republicans wouldn’t give Ukraine a “blank check” the way Democrats had. But that wasn’t happening.

Most of the dollars “allocated for military assistance to Ukraine never leave the United States,” the Hudson Institute’s Luke Coffey wrote at the time. “Funds for military support are not wired to Ukrainian government bank accounts.” We send Ukraine weapons — including, eventually, Abrams tanks — and other equipment, and that money goes toward replenishing our stockpiles.

President Biden has handled things fairly well behind the scenes, but his public statements tend to be weighed down by things he won’t do — like send tanks and other weapons systems — which he inevitably ends up doing. He’s also very fond of insisting — for more understandable reasons — that we will not be sending American troops to fight in Ukraine.

Indeed, the only thing that garners bipartisan support regarding Ukraine is that we shouldn’t get into a direct war with Russia, and therefore, NATO shouldn’t do anything that “provokes” Putin.

Provoke him to do what, exactly? Invade Ukraine and target civilians by the millions? He’s doing that already. Not supplying these weapons in a more timely manner was what was actually provocative. The dithering encouraged Putin to wage a missile and artillery war on Ukrainian population centers in the hope that he could beat the country into submission before the West realized it needed to send weapons.

No one wants a nuclear war, of course. Which is why Russia keeps threatening one. If the policy is going to be that Russia can do whatever it wants because it has nuclear weapons, then make that argument.

But if the strategic goal is for Ukraine to win back its own territory using its own troops, then the tactical imperative is to give Ukraine what it needs to win. Normally, when America sends troops to fight, the refrain from critics is to let the Iraqis or Afghans or whomever fight for their own freedom. That’s what Ukraine is doing.

Mitt Romney was right — and Barack Obama was wrong — in 2012 when he described Russia as our “geopolitical foe.” Enabling Ukrainians to degrade Russia is in our national interest. And, if the new “nationalist” Republicans were serious about the sanctity of national borders, they’d recognize that Ukraine is literally the front line of that fight.

Some seem to think it’s provocative to let Russia believe NATO is using Ukraine as a proxy for its interests. But that horse left the barn long ago. That’s the official Russian view, blared out constantly on Russia state media. Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev recently declared, “The events in Ukraine are not a clash between Moscow and Kyiv — this is a military confrontation between Russia and NATO.”

Moscow is “not dealing with Ukraine — we’re past that,” prime-time Russian TV host Vladimir Solovoy announced last October. “We’re dealing with the entire NATO bloc, with the might of its military industrial complex.”

If only that were true.

@JonahDispatch



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

PROTEST signs outside LAPD headquarters a day after the release of the Tyre Nichols video.

The video sunk me, especially the Black officers’ depravity

By Erin Aubry Kaplan

THIS ONE HURTS. Of course, they all do, all the deaths of Black people at the hands of police, deaths that continue to be among the most painful and potent reminders that racism is not some abstract problem but a precept of American life that’s particularly evident in street-level law enforcement. The death of 29-year-old Tyre Nichols joins too many other, similar reminders, from Trayvon Martin to Breonna Taylor to George Floyd. These are deaths that simultaneously stoke our national conscience and grow our national shame.

But this tragedy is also different. I know because my reaction is different. Usually — terrible to even have to say that — these excessive-force scandals outrage me. I want to hash out the details immediately with other people, post comments, attend a protest. But Nichols’ death had the opposite effect. After watching the video, I collapsed.

Pain hit me like a migraine; my senses overwhelmed, I just wanted to get into bed and turn the lights out. I wanted desperately to unsee what I’d seen: five Black cops, over the course of an hour, hunting down and violently assaulting a young Black man as if it was their right, without a shred of remorse. The atmosphere in the video footage was

tense but at points almost gleeful, as if the officers were contestants in an urban version of “The Hunger Games.” It hit a new level of appalling.

I know what many people, especially Black people, are thinking now, what they’ve already said: This isn’t a problem of Black-on-Black violence; it’s a problem of police culture. Systemic racism is the culprit. Cops of all colors embrace a bedrock notion that Blackness is suspect, dangerous and punishable by injury or death. The racial optics of the Nichols killing are awful, but no more or less awful than all the other cellphone and bodycam footage we’ve seen in other cases with other cops. And this is hardly the first time that officers of color have been involved in high-profile brutality.

I get all that. I totally agree that without endemic racism built and nurtured by white people, we wouldn’t be here — again. But none of that lessens the personal horror I feel at watching Black officers unleash the full force of that racism on a single unarmed Black man. It doesn’t alleviate the anguish of seeing the most pernicious effects of internalized racism — the little-discussed phenomenon of Black people devaluing their own the same way the rest of the world does — on such public display.

When we think of internalized racism, we tend to think of street gangs like the Crips and Bloods

Without endemic racism we wouldn’t be here — again. But none of that lessens the horror I feel at watching Black officers unleash the full force of that racism on a single unarmed Black man.

killing each other, which is deplorable. But violence committed against ordinary Black people by Black cops who are sworn to protect and serve communities already reeling from violence is beyond deplorable; it’s depraved.

It is the easy, almost thoughtless embrace of that depravity by the Black officers in Memphis that really sunk me. From the first moment of the encounter with Nichols, they bullied, threatened and threw around profanities like they were itching for a bar fight.

They didn’t bother to tell a clearly terrified Nichols what he was being stopped for. They knew, as cops and as Black men, that no explanation was required. Being part of a special unit charged with reducing the homicide rate in Black neighborhoods emboldened them further: Using any force necessary to tamp down Black criminality, a spurious given, is a time-honored American tradition.

I get all that too. What flattened me up-close, in real time, was the officers’ absolute refusal to see Nichols as human or, at least, as a citizen with rights. They shout at him contradictory orders that are impossible to obey, designed to confuse. When Nichols initially seems to be trying to address them as fellow humans and fellow Black men — “OK, dude, dang” is one thing he exclaims when they yank him out of the car onto the ground — they double down, as if he had insulted them. His screams of pain and fear, informing the officers he had asthma, calling out to his mother who lived nearby, moved them not at all.

It was shattering, especially after the trauma of George Floyd and the national awakening about the nature of racism, about the racism embedded in policing, that Black people from all walks of life have long understood and experienced.

I’d be willing to bet that those officers now facing murder charges understand racism very well. But they could still compartmentalize, draw a bright line between us and them — between cops and Black people, between upstanding Black folk and whomever they deem Black riffraff. Each line is bad on its own, but when they operate together, the outcome is noxious, and deadly. It’s racism on steroids.

I hate that I feel the need to say this: Tyre Nichols was a human being. He was a young man who loved skateboarding, whose life mattered. He was simply, in his infinite vulnerability and possibility so brutally cut short, one of us.

ERIN AUBRY KAPLAN is a contributing writer to Opinion.

How a holiday event became fight to survive

[New Year's Eve, from A1]

Star Ballroom Dance Studio on Garvey Avenue in Monterey Park is well known to the middle-aged and senior population of the San Gabriel Valley.

Tucked into a strip mall, it sits beside Traditional Gullin Noodles restaurant. Green and white awnings shade windows that face into the ballroom. A sign out front boasts a Korean long drum dancing class, taught by a renowned Korean dancer.

A message in the studio's WeChat group advertised a "Chinese New Year Countdown Dance Party," set for Jan. 21. It was supposed to end at 12:30 a.m.

That night, the studio was decorated for the occasion. The photo backdrop hung beneath red letters that spelled out "Star Ballroom." It was flanked by balloon arches.

When Ren arrived about 7:30 p.m., Ming Wei Ma was still placing numbers on each table. The regulars were familiar by then with 72-year-old Ma, a beloved "boss" at the studio. He was the kind of gentleman who'd walk women to their car if dance classes ended late at night.

"How many of you?" Ma asked Ren.

"Five," she replied. The group included her friend Niu, who had been to the dance studio a few times.

Ma asked where they'd like to sit, and Ren pointed to a table near a mirror in the far back left side of the room. A different table from where she normally sat. Ma labeled it with her name.

Shally arrived soon after, around 8 p.m. She greeted other guests with "gong xi fa cai," wishing them prosperity.

She hadn't bought a ticket, so she told a friend she would repay her if she covered the \$15 entry fee. Shally asked for a square table near the dance floor, where she sat alone.

Her husband doesn't dance and didn't join her. The one condition of their three-year marriage, she said, was that she could go dancing on the weekends. She had taken a cha-cha class at Star 15 years ago and never stopped dancing.

Through Star, she met Yu Lun Kao, whom she knew as Andy. He'd been her dance partner for more than a decade. To her, he was "Mr. Nice." Any weekend she called him to say she was dancing, he would join her.

"Any hour we had time, we never waste the time. We had to come dancing," Shally said. "Only dancing make you happy."

Although her partner didn't arrive for another hour, Shally didn't wait to start moving. Over the years, she had learned the men's and women's dance steps so there would be "no need to wait for the man."

She took two women she knew for a spin on the floor, losing herself in the movement. When you dance, she said, "you forget everything."

Tony, 64, and Jennifer, 62, regulars at the studio for the last decade, arrived about 8 p.m. They sat near the entrance before spotting an empty table and asking Ma if they could move. He said yes and put them off in a corner, far from the front of the dance hall.

Jennifer asked Ma to play a song so the couple could dance the tango.

Xiujuan Yu, 57, had never been to Star before the Lunar New Year celebration. A friend had called and told her about the festivities. Yu decided to go with LiLan Li, 63, and a third friend.

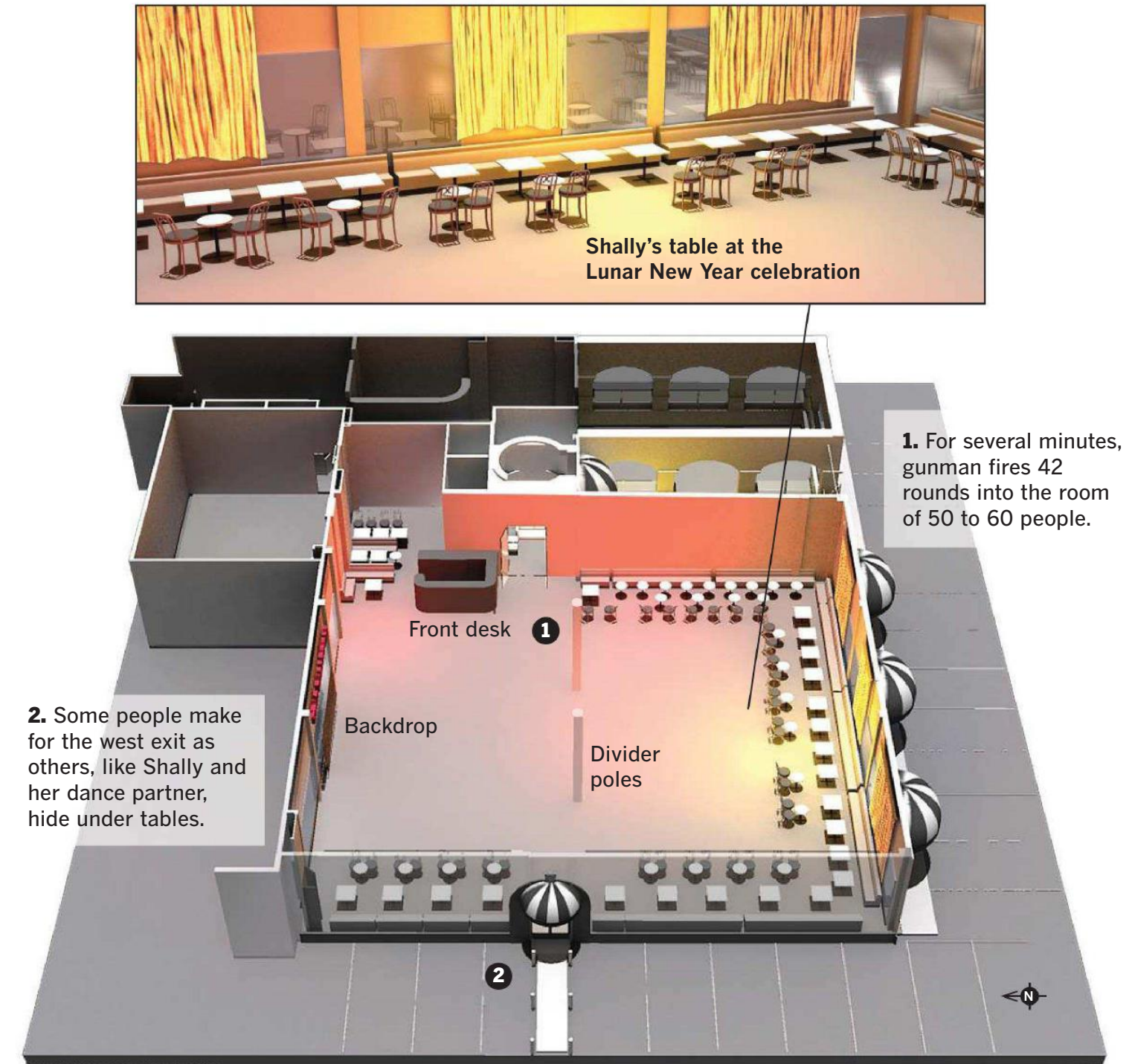
Nikon Lou, an Alhambra resident, met three friends there. The women said they had only one male partner to dance with and urged Lou to join. They sat away from the front entrance, near an exit door. Lou snapped the photo of Shally and her friends.

There were around 50 to 60 people there that night, much fewer than the hundreds Shally remembered turning up for the recent Christmas party.

Among them was Mymy Nhan, 65, who attended dance classes at the studio as often as she could. Her longtime dance

Star Ballroom Dance Studio's terror

A 72-year-old gunman killed 11 people and wounded nine during a Lunar New Year's Eve celebration at Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park. Many people like Shally attended the Jan. 21 event.



Times reporting by Brittny Mejia, Rebecca Ellis, Summer Lin, Monterey Park Clerk's Office

LORENA IÑIGUEZ ELEBEE Los Angeles Times

instructor saw her as "the light of the class and the light of the studio." She was a fixture at Star on Saturday nights.

Although the Lunar New Year party was set to go past midnight, Nhan decided to leave early.

She wanted to set up the family shrine to pay homage to her ancestors.

..

Huu Can Tran had been to the dance studio. But he hadn't been a familiar face for at least five years.

On this cold winter night, he was armed with a semiautomatic MAC-10 assault weapon.

Tran appeared to be spiraling over the last few weeks.

He'd shown up twice to the Hemet Police Department, near his home, alleging that family members had tried to poison him decades earlier. He also claimed to have been the victim of fraud and theft. He never returned with evidence.

Tran had amassed hundreds of rounds of ammunition in his trailer park home, along with supplies to make homemade firearm suppressors, which muffle the sound of a weapon firing.

Earlier that Saturday, Tran had parked a motorcycle about a block from the dance studio. Authorities believe it was part of an escape plan.

As Tran prepared to enter the studio, Nhan and her dance partner readied to leave. She was in the parking lot, backing out, when she saw someone in the rearview mirror. It was Tran.

He approached the driver's side of her car and fired multiple times. Nhan slumped in the front seat, dead. Her dance partner, who hadn't been shot, didn't recognize the gunman.

Tran turned his attention to the studio.

..

On the dance floor inside, Shally and Andy were dancing a lively and fast-paced jive. Nearby, dozens of people line danced to the Chinese song "Light Rain in March."

Ren's dance instructor corrected her moves. He asked her to face the mirror to see how to improve her form.

Niu, Ren's friend, had rushed to the front of the room to learn the steps from another instructor. The entrance to the dance studio was to Niu's right.

Xiujuan Yu's friend needed to use the restroom and left the dance floor.

Tony and Jennifer were sitting at their table, taking a break.

The revelers were so enthralled by the dancing, they didn't see Tran walk in. When he began to shoot, they mistook the gunfire for Chinese firecrackers. They had heard those at past celebrations.

Niu saw a couple beside him fall to the floor. He thought they had slipped. He was about nine feet from the front desk and could smell gunpowder, a similar scent to firecrackers.

"After that, you hear the sound and it's not right," Shally said. "This one was like boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. It did not stop."

..

'This one was like boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. It did not stop.'

..

Near Niu, a man yelled, "Gunshots!"

Niu ducked to the ground and began crawling away from the entrance, to the left corner of the hall. He made his way into a storage room, a tiny 1½ by 3 feet.

"Hurry up, get into the room," someone said.

Niu was halfway in when several women followed, crawling in and piling on top of him. There were about five or six people squeezed inside. They didn't dare move.

Outside, everyone, including Ma, was on the ground.

After the first shot, Tony was hit with debris from something that had shattered nearby. Jennifer was also hit in the leg with flying fragments.

The couple ducked under a table and lay still on the ground. Others started running, looking for a place to hide.

"People were falling and bleeding," Tony said.

The music kept playing.

Lou saw a man nearby frozen in place, the only person still standing. Lou rushed over and pulled him to the floor.

Shally grabbed Andy's hand and pulled him under a table. They held on to each other.

From there, Shally saw the shooter stop and disappear from view. When he came back, she watched him reload the gun, his face angry.

"Please, don't say anything," she whispered to Andy, who appeared poised to speak. "Just lay down."

Terrified, Shally squeezed her eyes shut. She said a silent prayer: "Please, protect us."

..

Chaos spilled over outside the studio and into the streets of Monterey Park, a largely Asian enclave less than 10 miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

Three people ran into the Clam House, a seafood barbecue restaurant across the street from the carnage. It was one of the last places open late at night.

"Lock the door," they pleaded with the restaurant owner, Seung Won Choi. There was a man

with a gun, they said. The shooter had multiple rounds of ammunition.

Their faces were pale with terror — "hot white," Choi said.

A little after 10:19 p.m., Bill was sitting in his Toyota truck, Snapchatting his girlfriend and blaring "Ghetto Bird" by Ice Cube. The 20-year-old had just stopped by the Bank of America ATM, three doors from Star Dance Studio, en route to his girlfriend's house.

Just as he was about to drive away, a panicked half-dozen people charged toward his truck. Most looked older than 60. He watched as two people stood on his back wheel and hopped into the truck's bed. An older man knocked on his front window.

"You need to drive," the man told him. "There's danger."

Bill helped the older man get into the back of the truck along with three or four others. They were screaming in a language Bill didn't understand.

He assumed they were running from a fight, or maybe a fire. It was only as he left the parking lot that he realized what they were escaping. He heard gunfire.

"Drive! Drive! Drive!" the man yelled.

While Tran reloaded, Lou raced out of the studio's side exit. Before Lou reached the bottom of the wheelchair ramp, he heard the shooting start anew. He ran through the parking lot and — at 10:22 p.m. — he called 911.

The dispatcher said he was the first to call.

..

Tran fired 42 rounds over several minutes. After he left, no one moved.

Then, Tony said, someone turned on the light. The music stopped. Jennifer spotted Ma lying by a mirror. She'd recognized his red shirt.

Xiujuan Yu's friend had heard loud noises outside the bathroom. She crept out onto the dance floor. She saw Yu sprawled on the hardwood floor and Li slumped in the chair.

Underneath a nearby table, Shally called out to her dance partner: "Wake up! Wake up!"

He didn't respond. Then she realized her hands were covered in blood.

"What happened?" she screamed. She thought she'd been shot.

..

'I see on my hand was blood. I said, "What happened?" It was scary. I thought, "Me?"'

A woman next to Shally told her that, if she could yell, she was OK. She asked Shally to call 911. Shally told the dispatcher that a lot of people were injured, and there were "bodies dead on the floor."

"Please come right away," she said.

Within minutes of the 911 calls, Monterey Park police officers — including rookies who had been on patrol for just months — rushed to the scene. They saw dozens of people fleeing, some injured.

Niu got up when he heard the police arrive. Outside the storage room, he saw a man had been shot and was bleeding from his stomach. As he took a few more steps, Niu saw more injured people on the ground.

"Each time I stepped forward, I would find a person on the ground," Niu said.

The blood on Shally's hand wasn't her own. It was Andy's. Her dance partner had been shot in the chest. He died, lying on the floor beside her.

..

The gunman was gone. He had shot 10 people to death. At least 10 others were injured.

Tran's next stop was Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio in Alhambra. There, Brandon Tsay, whose family owns the studio, wrested the gun from the shooter's hands.

Twelve hours later, Tran sat in his van in a Torrance strip mall parking lot. As officers closed in on him, he shot himself to death.

Questions remain about the gunman's motives. Chances are, there will be no answers.

Those who were in the dance studio are wrestling with a question of their own. They wonder if they'll ever be able to return to the place they once loved.

Ren doesn't think she will go back to the ballroom on Garvey Avenue. For a while, she said, she'll stop dancing altogether.

..

'In this moment I don't think we can come back to dancing for a long, long time.'

..

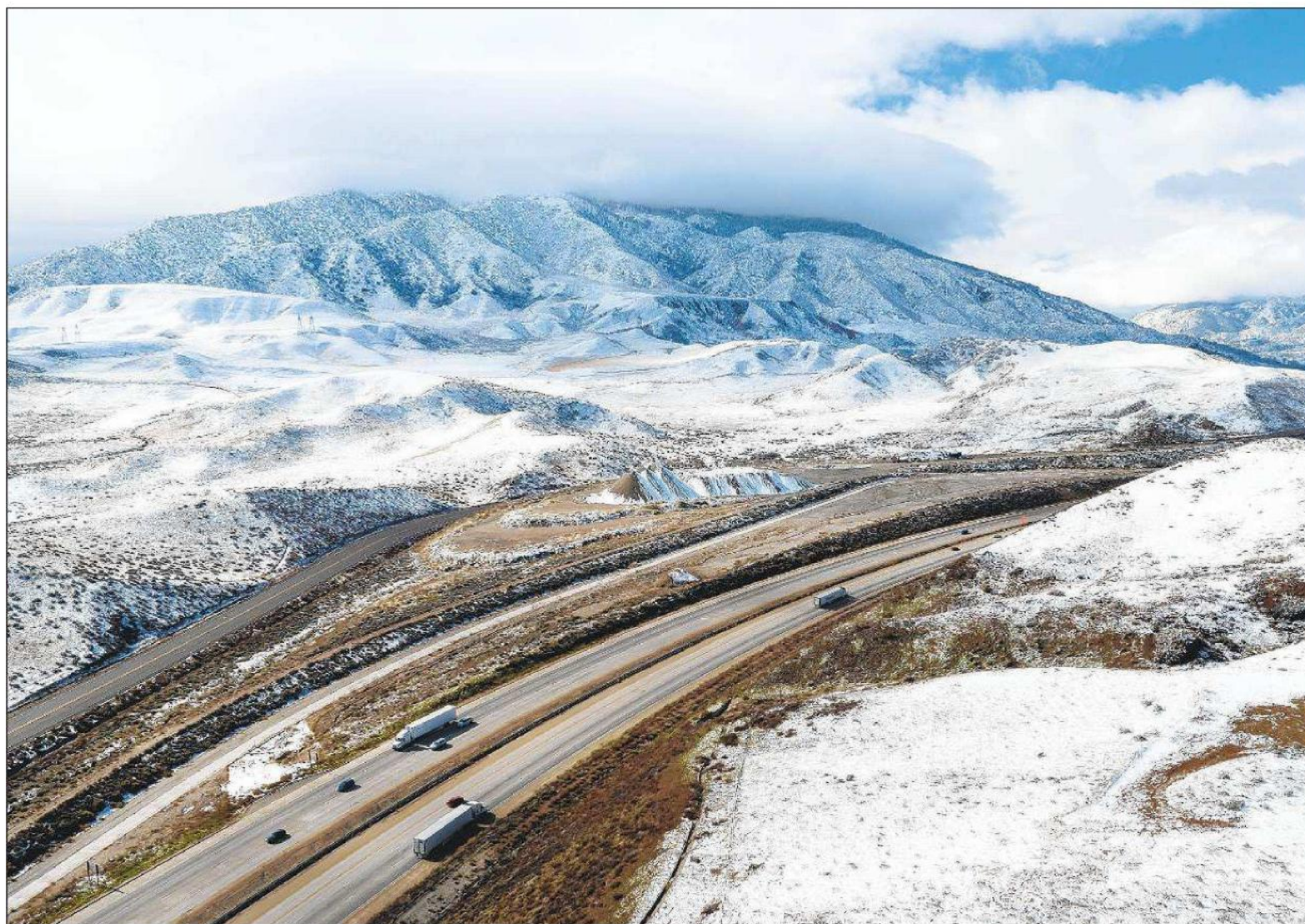
Times staff writer Jeong Park contributed to this report.

Hear Shally in her own words

Scan to hear the audio of Shally's quotes featured in our interactive story online.

CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



Photographs by MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

SNOW covered hills Monday along the 5 Freeway in Gorman. Northern L.A. County mountains have seen up to 4 feet since Sunday.

Winter storm pounds Southland

Low pressure delivers frigid temperatures, rain and snow throughout region

BY ALEXANDRA E. PETRI
AND GRACE TOOHEY

A winter storm brought more rain and snow to Southern California on Monday, prompting warnings of dangerous road conditions as frigid temperatures gripped the Sierra Nevada.

An area of low pressure just south of Point Conception in Santa Barbara County was spinning showers into the Southland, according to David Sweet, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Oxnard.

Parts of Los Angeles County, including downtown L.A. and Pasadena, recorded up to three-quarters of an inch of rain in the 48 hours to 10 a.m. Monday, according to totals from the National Weather Service.



HAILEY LONG, 8, takes a tumble while sledding Monday on a hillside by her home in Frazier Park, Calif., after a storm brought snow to Kern County.

Sepulveda Canyon saw more than eight-tenths of an inch of rain. In Ventura County, Camarillo topped nine-tenths of an inch. Northern Los Angeles County mountains recorded up to 4 feet of snow during the two-day period, according to the National Weather Service.

Snow was reported on the Grapevine early Monday, prompting the California Highway Patrol to escort traffic through the Tejon Pass.

By 10 a.m., the treacherous stretch of roadway had been cleared, officials said.

A winter storm advisory was in effect for the Antelope Valley through 10 p.m. Monday, warning of snow showers that could affect travel on Highway 138 in and around Palmdale.

“Very slippery and dan-
[See **Storm**, B2]

Husband charged in Tesla crash off a cliff

‘He intentionally tried to kill us,’ the wife of Dharmesh Patel told paramedics.

By NOAH GOLDBERG

Neha Patel was still conscious when paramedics rescued her from a white Tesla that had gone over the cliff at Devil’s Slide along Highway 1 and tumbled hundreds of feet to the beach.

As they rescued her, Patel made statements to paramedics that helped lead to the three attempted murder charges filed Monday against her husband, Dharmesh Patel, 41, who was driving the Tesla when the crash took place.

“He intentionally tried to kill us,” Neha Patel told paramedics, San Mateo County Dist. Atty. Stephen Wagstaffe told The Times on Monday.

“She said very simply this was not an accident,” Wagstaffe added.

Patel was charged with attempted murder with enhancements after an investigation by the district attorney’s office, according to court records.

Patel was arrested by the California Highway Patrol on suspicion of attempted murder and child endangerment after the Jan. 2 crash, but prosecutors waited until after he was transferred out of the hospital last week to charge him. His wife and two children have also since been released from the hospital.

Wagstaffe clarified that his prosecutors have not interviewed Neha but that they had enough to file charges without her statement.

Patel drove Neha, their 7-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son off the cliff at Devil’s Slide, a notoriously dangerous portion of Highway 1 about 15 miles south of San Francisco. The car tum-
[See **Patel**, B5]

Ballroom shooter reported threats, effort to poison him

Records give insight into Huu Can Tran’s paranoid worldview over the decades.

By MATTHEW ORMSETH
AND ALENE
TCHEKMEDYIAN

Three decades before he shot 11 people to death in a Monterey Park ballroom, Huu Can Tran told police he believed relatives of a woman he’d been dating had threatened to kill him and were trying to lure him into a trap.

Tran’s suspicions — which were apparently groundless — were laid out in documents obtained by The Times from the San Gabriel Police Department. The records provide some insight into what appears to be his paranoid worldview. Just this month, authorities said, he went twice to the police station in Hemet, where he’d moved into a trailer park, and claimed his family had defrauded and tried to poison him.

Twelve days later, Tran,

72, opened fire in Star Ballroom Dance Studio on Garvey Avenue, killing 11 people on the eve of the Lunar New Year. He killed himself the next day as police closed in on his van in a Torrance strip mall.

Investigators have not disclosed whether they have identified a motive, and Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said last week that they knew of no connection between Tran and his victims, who ranged in age from 57 to 76.

The sheriff said Tran had been arrested just once — in 1990, on suspicion of illegally possessing a firearm — but provided no other details.

The San Gabriel police records shed light on that arrest. The evening of Nov. 27, 1990, Officer James Kermod responded to a radio call of a possible robbery at Glendon Way and Del Mar Avenue. Tran, then 40, ran up to Kermod’s patrol car and said a liquor store had just been robbed, the officer wrote in a report.

Tran offered to show Kermod the store that had
[See **Tran**, B2]

A vigil for a long-ago plane crash



GUSTAVO ARELLANO Los Angeles Times

AUTHOR Tim Z. Hernandez describes a 1948 plane crash near Coalinga, Calif., that killed 32 people.

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

It has been a January of vigils for California. For the Central Valley town of Goshen, after gunmen killed six members of a family, including a 16-year-old mother and her infant son.

For Monterey Park, where 11 people were killed at a dance studio just hours after the city’s Lunar New Year celebration.

For Half Moon Bay, where a farmworker is accused of fatally shooting seven people, many of them his colleagues.

Last Friday evening in downtown Los Angeles, there were more commemorations for other deadly tragedies.

Mourners gathered outside the Los Angeles Police Department headquarters with candles and protest signs in memory of Tyre Nichols and Keenan Anderson, Black men who lost their lives after encounters with police officers in, respectively, Memphis, Tenn., and Los Angeles.

[See **Arellano**, B4]

LAFD official is out amid probe

Deputy chief who is accused of sexual harassment retired effective Jan. 17. **B3**

‘Arrests will be made’ in deaths

Sheriff cites progress in investigation of execution-style slayings in Goshen. **B3**

Lottery **B2**

Booster key in preventing COVID deaths

By LUKE MONEY
AND RONG-GONG LIN II

Unvaccinated people were more than seven times as likely to die of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County as those who received an updated booster during the latest coronavirus spike, underscoring the potential benefit of an additional shot even as pandemic metrics improve.

Over the 30-day period that ended Jan. 3, which covers the bulk of the post-Thanksgiving coronavirus surge, the death rate among unvaccinated Angelenos was 16.6 per 100,000 residents, according to an analysis by the county Department of Public Health. Among those who had received an updated bivalent booster, the comparable rate was significantly lower:

2.3 deaths per 100,000 residents.

For every 100,000 vaccinated people who haven’t yet gotten the updated booster, just under five died.

The data illustrate “the very real protection offered by the bivalent booster and by vaccines, even against the newer variants that are circulating now,” L.A. County Public Health Director Bar-
[See **COVID**, B2]

Storm brings rain, snow to the Southland

[**Storm**, from B1] gerous road conditions are expected,” the advisory said. The cold air in the storm system was driving snow down to elevations as low as 2,500 feet, Sweet said. “Anyone going to locations above 2,500 feet should prepare themselves,” Sweet said. In the Lake Tahoe basin, officials were warning of dangerously cold temperatures Monday and into Tuesday. Temperatures in much of the region were in the teens Sunday night and dropped below zero at a few locations, according to Dawn Johnson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Reno, Nev. The Truckee airport, just

north of Lake Tahoe, recorded air temperatures Sunday night of 11 degrees — and an added wind chill could make conditions worse into Tuesday. “Not only is the air temperature cold, but we’re going to see ... wind chills potentially reaching negative 20 to 35,” Johnson said. People in the Lake Tahoe basin need to keep an eye on vulnerable populations, pets and livestock, she said, as well as the possibility of frozen pipes. If people choose to risk being outdoors in the frigid weather, they need to be prepared for dangerous conditions. “Frostbite can occur at a very short period of time,” Johnson said.



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

MOTORISTS on the 5 Freeway pass through a snowy landscape Monday at the Kern County community of Lebec. In the Lake Tahoe basin, officials were warning of dangerously cold temperatures into Tuesday.

Updated booster is key to preventing COVID-19 deaths

[**COVID**, from B1] bara Ferrer said. “People often mistakenly think that they don’t need an updated protection because they’ve been previously infected with COVID. Or they don’t realize that they’re even eligible for the updated booster,” she said Thursday. “If you haven’t had a booster for COVID since August of 2022, or if it’s been more than three months since you had a COVID-19 infection, it is time for the updated booster.” The county’s analysis adds to findings recently released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that the updated COVID-19 booster shot has helped prevent illness from the XBB-related subvariants — the latest members of the sprawling Omicron family. According to the most recent state data, unvaccinated Californians were roughly three times more likely to die of COVID-19 than those who had received at least a primary series of shots in November. XBB.1.5 is now estimated to be the nation’s dominant subvariant, probably accounting for more than 60% of coronavirus cases for the most recent week available. The California Department of Public Health most recently estimated its statewide proportion at 33.9%. It’s likely many of those who died of COVID-19 during the December surge had battled the disease before, Ferrer said, given that most people have been infected with the coronavirus. Surviving a brush with COVID-19 imparts some degree of protection against future infection, though how enduring depends on a num-



FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

GUADALUPE RODRIGUEZ comforts her husband, Alexander Frazier, in an L.A. hospital on Jan. 26, 2022. Frazier had COVID and diabetes and died the next day. A year later, COVID is still taking a toll in L.A. County.

ber of factors. But some studies suggest having survived COVID-19 doesn’t necessarily protect against severe illness or death from a subsequent infection. A study published in the journal Nature in November suggested that a repeat coronavirus infection “contributed additional risks of death.” “The evidence shows that reinfection further increases risks of death, hospitalization and [damage to] multiple organ systems,” the study said, such as to the lungs, heart, blood, gastrointestinal, kidney, musculoskeletal and neurological systems, and it increases

risk of diabetes and mental health disorders. About 73% of Los Angeles County residents have completed their primary vaccination series, and 81% of residents have received at least one dose of vaccine, data show. But only 22% of L.A. County residents 5 and older eligible for the updated booster have received it. Coverage is higher for seniors, with 39% of eligible individuals 65 and older having rolled up their sleeves. COVID-19 deaths are still relatively high compared with last summer. L.A. County has averaged 140 deaths per week for nearly a month, higher than last

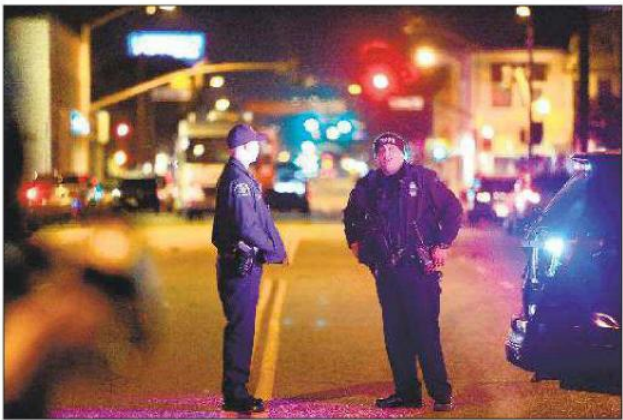
summer’s peak of 122, but lower than the prior winter’s peak of 513. The all-time pandemic peak was 1,625 deaths during a one-week period in mid-January 2021, a time when hospital morgues were overflowing with corpses. Ferrer said a more reassuring weekly death rate would be about 35. Such a number might still be difficult to accept — especially because many deaths are now largely preventable with vaccines — but would nonetheless represent stability and “indicate that our protections are really working extraordinarily well.” L.A. County reached such levels twice in 2022.

There were 24 COVID-19 deaths recorded during one week in May, and 43 the first week in November. “It’s important that we continue to be aware that this virus is still dangerous and remains a leading cause of death in L.A. County,” she said. For those who do get sick, Ferrer said, it’s important that they get tested and seek treatment if eligible. U.S. households became eligible again this winter for four free at-home coronavirus tests, which can be ordered through covid.gov/tests or by calling (800) 232-0233. Also, the federal government has ordered health in-

surers to reimburse customers for the cost of eight at-home tests per month — of up to \$12 per test — per covered individual, as long as COVID-19 remains a public health emergency, which is expected to expire May 11. Treatment is also important for many infected with the coronavirus, Ferrer said. There are two oral drugs available: Paxlovid, for ages 12 and up; and molnupiravir, which is available only for adults. The drugs need to be started within five days of the onset of symptoms. A third drug, remdesivir, can be administered intravenously at a healthcare facility to anyone at least 28 days old. A course of this drug needs to begin within seven days of the start of symptoms. There are more than 1,100 sites in L.A. County where people can obtain anti-COVID-19 drugs, and more than 130 are “test-to-treat” sites where you can be tested for the coronavirus, speak to a healthcare provider and, if eligible, get the prescription and drugs in the same visit. A list can be found at ph.lacounty.gov/covid-medicines. L.A. County residents also can seek telehealth services by calling the county Department of Public Health at (833) 540-0473 seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The department offers help in multiple languages. Those who have tested positive for the coronavirus will be connected to a healthcare provider at no cost, without regard to insurance or immigration status, and if the provider prescribes treatment, the residents can receive medicine by overnight shipment for free. Between April and December, more than 6,300 residents accessed the county’s telehealth services, and more than 5,300 got medicine to treat COVID-19, Ferrer said. Most who have used this service live in neighborhoods most vulnerable to COVID-19, due to factors such as poverty. “If you test positive for COVID, or you have probable symptoms, it’s always good practice to check in with a provider to see if you’re eligible for treatment,” she said. “I believe that many more people are eligible for treatment than those who think they are.”

Claims of fraud, death threats and poisoning

[**Tran**, from B1] been victimized. Before driving him there, the officer did a “quick pat-down” for weapons. In Tran’s left jacket pocket, Kermode found a loaded RG40 .38-caliber revolver, according to the report. Tran was handcuffed and driven to the San Gabriel police station. After waiving his Miranda rights, Tran said he’d been walking his dog when he saw a man running out of George’s Liquor on New Avenue carrying a “metal box.” The owner ran outside, pointed to the man and said he had “robbed money,” Tran told police. He took off running after the man. As he passed his home on Manor Way, Tran said, he took his dog inside, grabbed his gun and continued tailing the suspect. When the man stopped at a bus stop, Tran said he walked past him and went to a phone booth, from which he called police. Asked what he intended to do with the revolver, Tran said he “took the gun for protection,” according to the report. He was booked at the city jail on suspicion of carrying a concealed weapon, but there is no record of him being charged with the offense. It is unclear from the police



RAUL ROA Los Angeles Times

MONTEREY PARK police outside Star Ballroom Dance Studio after the killings of 11 people on Jan. 21.

report whether Tran legally owned the gun. The day after Christmas in 1992, Tran called San Gabriel police and claimed he was being threatened. Officer C.E. Gray went to his home on Manor Way to take a report. Tran told the officer he’d met a woman about four months earlier at a restaurant and had been “dating her occasionally since then,” Gray wrote. She had recently confided in Tran that she was married but seeking a divorce. Tran said he received a phone call from the sister of the woman’s husband. The sister-in-law, he said, told

him she’d recently come to California from Taiwan and belonged to an unspecified Taiwanese gang. The woman said that if he kept seeing her brother’s wife, she would have one of her “buddies” kill him, Tran claimed. Tran, who reported working as a self-employed carpet cleaner, told police he got another call from a man who asked him to come “immediately” to clean the carpets in his Torrance home. Knowing that both the husband and sister-in-law of the woman he was dating lived in Torrance, Tran thought it could be a setup, and he told the caller he didn’t work in the evening,

The day after Christmas in 1992, Tran called San Gabriel police and claimed he was being threatened.

he told police. “I just want you to come here tonight,” Tran recalled the man saying. Three weeks after making the report, Tran contacted the police again and said that morning he’d found 49 shotgun shells on his front lawn. He claimed a relative of the woman he was dating had left the ammunition to “scare” him, the report says. Tran agreed to place a recording device on his home line, but after it failed to work because of an unspecified malfunction, he told police “he did not want prosecution,” an officer wrote, “but only to make the police department aware of the situation in case something happened to him.” When the officer called the husband of the woman Tran had been dating, the

man, whose name is redacted, said he had never called Tran, much less threatened him. The man acknowledged having “marital problems” and was aware Tran and his wife had been “seeing each other when he leaves the country on business,” the report says. The man said it was not he who was calling Tran but the other way around: Tran, he said, had been calling his home phone “at all times of the night,” hoping his wife would pick up. Noting there was no physical evidence to support Tran’s allegations, the officer closed the case. Seven years later, Tran called San Gabriel police and said he was being threatened again, records show. He told the officer who responded to his house that, for the last nine months, he’d received “numerous” calls at home, the officer wrote in a report. “[Tran] said the suspect does not say anything when he answers the phone and has no idea who the suspect is,” the officer wrote, signing off with “NFD” — no further details. In the report, Tran’s occupation is listed as “dancing instructor / self-employed.”

Lottery results

Tonight’s Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$31 million
Sales close at 7:45 p.m.
For Monday, Jan. 30, 2023

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**
1-4-12-36-49—**Powerball 5**
Jackpot: \$613 million

Fantasy Five: 2-13-25-32-37

Daily Four: 1-6-2-0

Daily Three (midday): 9-9-6

Daily Three (evening): 6-2-7

Daily Derby:
(10) Solid Gold
(7) Eureka
(5) California Classic
Race time: 1:49.33

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

CITY & STATE



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

LAW ENFORCEMENT officials at the scene of six killings Jan. 16 that shocked the San Joaquin Valley community of Goshen. Most of the victims, who included a teenager and her baby, were related to one another.

Tulare sheriff cites progress in massacre investigation

‘Arrests will be made’ in execution-style slayings of six people in Goshen, he says.

BY RUBEN VIVES

Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux said Monday that detectives had made significant progress in an investigation into an execution-style massacre that left six people, including a teenager and her baby, dead this month in Goshen. “We’re very close,” Boudreaux said at an afternoon news conference, without disclosing details. “I don’t want to say anything that will jeopardize bringing these baby killers to justice.” He added, “I will say arrests will be made in the investigation.” Boudreaux also announced an increase in a reward for information leading to the identity and arrest of the shooters. He said the amount would likely grow to \$30,100 in the coming days. A small portion of the money, he said, came from at least two people: a man in New York and a woman in Maine, both of whom wrote

to the sheriff saying they were heartbroken by the slayings. The killings instilled fear in Goshen, an impoverished, sparsely populated community in the San Joaquin Valley that has become one of California’s most violent places due to drug trafficking and gangs. Boudreaux initially said the killings were the work of a Mexican drug cartel. But he later said they were likely carried out by local gangs or cartels — perhaps a combination of the two. At the news conference, Boudreaux displayed posters showing a network of state and local roadways used by two cartels and gangs affiliated with them. “It’s important that you see we do have cartels operating, and many of these work very closely with gangs,” he said. “Investigators strongly believe that the shooters in this case are gang-related, from the Central Valley.” Boudreaux called on Gov. Gavin Newsom to allow for the death penalty when children are slain. Authorities said two shooters barged into a family compound on Harvest Avenue about 3:30 a.m. on

‘Investigators strongly believe that the shooters in this case are gang-related, from the Central Valley.’

— MIKE BOUDREAUX, Tulare County sheriff

Jan. 16, hunting down and killing six people, including a 72-year-old grandmother in her bed, a 16-year-old girl and her infant. The sheriff singled out those three as innocent victims but said some members of the household were involved in gangs. Deputies first discovered the bodies of the mother and baby. Boudreaux said forensic evidence showed that the teen was attempting to escape with the baby, but they were caught and shot in the head from above, execution-style. Deputies found that the door to the main house had been forced open; one person was dead in the door-

way. Another was found in the threshold of a door to a trailer near the house. At least three other people survived the massacre; authorities are not identifying them. Coroner’s officials identified the dead as Rosa Parraz, 72; Marcos Parraz, 19; Eladio Parraz, 52; Jennifer Analla, 50; Alissa Parraz, 16; and Nycholas Parraz, 10 months. Rosa Parraz was the grandmother of Marcos and Alissa. Eladio Parraz was their uncle. Analla was the girlfriend of a man who survived the attack. Adding to the tragedy, Boudreaux said, Alissa had regained custody of her child, whom had been placed in protective services upon his birth because she could not provide sufficient care, just three days before the killings. In front of a backdrop of federal agents, Boudreaux said detectives have been working around the clock. “I can tell you, it changes almost hourly,” he said. “There’s been many twists and turns in this case, but the veteran investigators in this case, working alongside our federal counterparts, feel very confident in this investigation.”

LAFD deputy chief retires amid misconduct probe

BY DAKOTA SMITH

A top Los Angeles Fire Department official has retired in the midst of a city investigation into allegations of misconduct against him. Deputy Chief Armando Hogan, 61, retired effective Jan. 17, said LAFD Capt. Erik Scott, a department spokesperson. Hogan had been on administrative leave since Oct. 13 as the city investigated the accusations, Scott said. “The department was made aware of allegations of misconduct and directed an investigation to be conducted,” Scott said. “As this is an active investigation, the department will not comment further.” A message left at a phone number associated with Hogan wasn’t returned Monday. Independent journalist Daniel Guss reported in October that Hogan was under investigation for alleged sexual harassment. Guss reported last week that Hogan had retired. A 40-year LAFD veteran, Hogan was named firefighter of the year in 2021 by the Los Angeles City Firefighters Assn. He worked as a battalion chief and assistant chief before being named deputy chief in April 2022, according to his LinkedIn profile. The LAFD’s three deputy chiefs report to LAFD Chief Kristin Crowley, according to a department organizational chart. A onetime spokesperson for the agency, Hogan regu-

larly spoke to the media and appeared at fires and other news events. Hogan was a member of the Stentorians, a group of African American firefighters at the department. Fire Inspector Gerald Durant, a member of the Stentorians, said Monday that he had no information about the allegations involving Hogan. “I feel bad about the whole thing,” Durant said. Sources told The Times that the allegations were made by a woman who worked with Hogan. A 2021 Times investigation detailed allegations of bullying and harassment of female firefighters at the department. A 2019 survey of female members found that members had a positive experience in the recruit academy but reported widespread sexism once they deployed to fire stations. Crowley, the first woman to lead the city’s Fire Department in its 136-year history, promised accountability when she was chosen for the job last year. “The intention here and now is to ensure that all of our members, both women and men, come to work and feel safe and feel heard,” Crowley said. “If that type of behavior is occurring, that will not be tolerated. Period.” Ian Thompson, a spokesperson for City Atty. Hydee Feldstein Soto, confirmed Monday the city has hired the law office of Roberta Yang to look into allegations relating to Hogan. The hiring was reported earlier by Los Angeles magazine.



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

ARMANDO HOGAN, second from right, in 2020. He is under investigation for alleged sexual harassment.

L.A. motorists, prepare for more gas price jumps

BY GRACE TOOHEY

Gas prices in Los Angeles County are on the rise again, ticking slowly up since late December — and experts are not hopeful that the trend will reverse course anytime soon, according to the American Automobile Assn. In Los Angeles, the average price for a regular gallon reached \$4.56 on Monday, with gas prices either rising or remaining flat since Dec. 23, said Doug Shupe, a spokesperson for AAA of Southern California. He said prices hit a low of \$4.43 on Dec. 23 and haven’t fallen since then. “It’s been on the upward trend,” Shupe said. Statewide, the average price rose to \$4.55 per gallon Monday, up 11 cents from a week earlier and 16 cents from a month ago, according to AAA data. The increases follow a national trend of rising pump prices, due primarily to crude oil prices climbing and the demand for gasoline beginning to increase. But Shupe said in California,

prices are likely to continue increasing as the state makes its impending switch to pricier, summer-blend fuel April 1. In addition, he said many refineries will begin regular springtime maintenance and more people are expected to hit the road for trips or warm-weather adventures. “Prices are likely to rise in coming weeks,” Shupe said in a statement. “We recommend that drivers continue to conserve fuel and shop around for the lowest available gas prices.” Nationally, the price for a gallon of gas reached \$3.508 on Monday, up more than 30 cents from a month earlier, according to AAA. Although California hasn’t seen drastic increases in recent weeks, the Golden State’s average gas prices remain among the highest in the nation, behind only Hawaii’s. Throughout 2022, Los Angeles County on multiple occasions set a new record for gas prices. Prices on Monday remained almost \$2 below the latest record high — \$6.49 — set in October, according to AAA.

Champion skier dies in Japan avalanche

BY NATHAN SOLIS

Kyle Smaine, a professional skier from South Lake Tahoe, was killed Sunday in an avalanche in Japan, according to friends and family. Smaine, 31, traveled the world as a professional freestyle skier and won a gold medal in the halfpipe competition at the 2015 International Ski Federation’s world championships. The Japan Times reported that an unknown number of skiers were caught in an avalanche outside Tsugaike Mountain Resort in the village of Otari about 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Photographer Grant Gunderson skied with Smaine earlier that day on the eastern slope of Mt. Hakuba but skipped the final run of free skiing, which involves acrobatic tricks to get around the terrain and descending slopes at high speed. Smaine’s friends described it as exhilarating but sometimes dangerous. Smaine and another skier continued to ski the same

route they were on earlier in the day, and when they got to the bottom they were joined by a third skier. Higher up, another skier triggered the avalanche, Gunderson wrote in an Instagram post. Smaine and the other two skiers could not outrun the avalanche. A group of doctors and nurses were in the area and helped with the rescue effort. The Mountain Gazette reported Smaine was found unresponsive and was among the two skiers who died. One person survived, a Nagano police spokesperson told Reuters. Smaine grew up in South Lake Tahoe and was most in his element while outdoors. At 4 years old, he encouraged older kids to ski with him on the more difficult slopes. “I started out getting to know him by chasing him around the mountain as a little kid,” said Becca Gardner, who first met Smaine in South Lake Tahoe when she was about 5. Smaine was practically adopted by the Gardner family and often captained

the family’s ski boat near Nevada Beach on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe. He relished being out on the water or in the backcountry and was described by friends as a natural athlete who seemed to effortlessly perform some of the most difficult maneuvers. “Watching Kyle rip on a wakeboard or surfboard or ski or whatever it was, it was astonishing to watch,” said Whitney Gardner, 28. He was larger than life but humble with his talents. Becca Gardner, 32, recalls how Smaine gave so much of himself when he cheered on his friends or simply listened to someone share a story. The third Gardner sister, Michael, 25, remembered how Smaine never made her feel like a younger sibling. She looked forward to hitting the slopes with him. Smaine always kept snacks in his pocket, including honey sticks. Her last conversation with him was in her driveway. “He was catching a flight to Japan and he had about

five minutes to spare, so he stopped at our house,” Michael said, her voice breaking. “He was like, ‘I just wanted to give you a hug before I left.’ ” Smaine relished traveling into uncharted territory. He loved to mountain bike with his father, Bill, and he seemed to dance when he skied in the backcountry, said his childhood friend Adam Kingman. Kingman, 30, and Smaine skied together in Tahoe a week before he left for Japan. “I learned so much from him while skiing,” Kingman said. “I told him, ‘I love following you, because I just watch your form and I immediately learn so much.’ ” Childhood friend Abe Greenspan, 35, said the South Lake Tahoe community is reeling from the news of Smaine’s death. So many people knew of Smaine even if they never actually met him, Greenspan said. Though Greenspan was a snowboarder and Smaine skied, the two always got along on the slopes, egging each other on to stay out and relish nature.

Ex-UCLA lecturer is ruled mentally unfit to stand trial over threats

BY TERRY CASTLEMAN

A former postdoctoral fellow at UCLA who was arrested nearly a year ago after allegedly threatening students and staff was found mentally unfit to stand trial

last week by a judge in U.S. District Court in Denver. In a court filing Friday, Judge Raymond P. Moore wrote that counsel for defendant Matthew Harris of Boulder, Colo., filed a motion on Oct. 4 “for determination of Defendant’s com-

petency to stand trial.” An exam by a forensic psychiatrist found Harris “presently suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him incompetent to proceed,” the judge wrote. The filing states that mental incompetence left

the defendant “unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him or to assist properly in his defense.” Harris, then 31, was arrested Feb. 1 and charged by federal prosecutors with

making criminal threats across state lines after he sent an 803-page manifesto and a video referencing a mass shooting to students and faculty. The filing stipulates that Harris will be hospitalized and treated for mental ill-

ness to allow experts to determine whether his mental condition might improve enough for him to stand trial in the future. The judge ordered a written report on Harris’ mental condition by May 27, or four months after the filing.

MARKETPLACE

JOBS • REAL ESTATE • MORE

latimes.com/placead

To place an ad call 1.800.234.4444

Los Angeles Times

HOMES FOR SALE

1100

Out of State

Oklahoma

70-80 acres along scenic Illinois River & Hwy 10. Unltid income potential, asking \$2.5 million. For info call 918-316-1988

Los Angeles Times Classified

Los Angeles Times

Legal Notices

SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 22CHLC00173

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): HELENE C BRY

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extensos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 9425 PENFIELD AVENUE, CHATSWORTH, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): CLAUDIA GAVILLESCU, ESQ. (CA BAR NO.: REESE LAW GROUP, 3168 Lionshead Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92010; 760/842-5850 (File No. 565485) DATE (Fecha): 01/04/2022

SHERRI R. CARTER EXECUTIVE OFFICE / CLERK OF COURT, Clerk (Secretario), by L. LOPEZ, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL) 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14/23

CNS-3662411#

LEGAL NOTICES

1300

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NO. 23CMCP00005

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address): Charles L'Ray Brodnax 1258 E Diamondale

Legal Notices

SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Numero del Caso): 37-2019-00039011-CL-PO-NC

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Parady Security

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Liberty Insurance Corporation as Subrogee of Staff Pro, Inc.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extensos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California County of San Diego 325 South Melrose Drive Vista, CA 92081

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Omar H. Raja 318528 Law Offices of Yempuku, Wetters & McNamara 2180 Harvard Street, Suite 375 Sacramento, CA 95815 916-649-8333 603-334-7903

Date: 07/29/2019

Clerk of the Superior Court Michael Clemens, Deputy Clerk

Published in the Los Angeles Times 1/24/2023, 1/31/2023, 2/7/2023, 2/14/2023

Name Change

Drive, Carson, CA 90746

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED: Petitioner Charles L'Ray Brodnax filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name Charles L'Ray Brodnax - In Pro Per Proposed Name Charles L'Ray Beard

THE COURT ORDERS That all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Name Change

DATE: 3-23-2023 TIME: 8:30 A.M. DEPT: A ROOM: 904

The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles South Central District 200 West Compton Blvd

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county. Dated: Jauary 13, 2023 David W. Slayton Clerk

Published in the Los Angeles Times 01/24/23, 01/31/23, 02/07/23, 02/14/23

Los Angeles Times Classified

To advertise. call (800) 234-4444

Los Angeles Times

SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

Case Number (Numero del Caso): CGC-20-585287

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): SREE SARAN ALLURU

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): FIRUZ NAZHMETDINOV

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT 400 McAllister Street San Francisco, California 94102-4515

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): JEREMY CLOYD 465 California St, 5th Floor San Francisco, California 94104 (415) 988-9828

Date: (Fecha) JULY 8, 2020

Clerk of the Court Clerk (Secretario) Deputy (Adjunto) ANGELICA SUNGA

love is...



...getting not just any hug, but your hug!

TM Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. — all rights reserved © 2023 Minikim Holland B.V.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUJEG

LIHCL

DRANPO

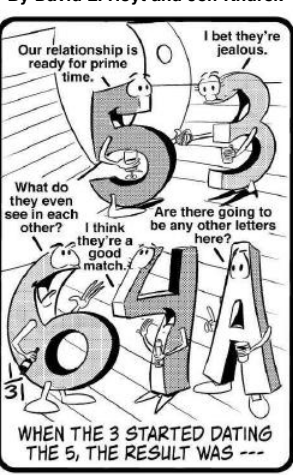
OMAOBB

©2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Yesterdays Jumbles: MINUS HUNCH MOMENT METHOD Answer: When they greeted each other at the restaurant at 12 PM, it was — “HI” NOON

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

You'll find it here.

L.A. Times Classified

Buy it. Sell it. Rent it. Lease it. Trade it. Own it.

To advertise, call (800)234-4444

Los Angeles Times

Legal Notices

SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 21CHLC02324

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): EDMOND YEMINI

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extensos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 9425 Penfield Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): REESE LAW GROUP, Harlan M. Reese, Esq. (Bar # 118226), 3168 Lionshead Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92010; 760/842-5850 (File No. 564621) DATE (Fecha): 01/22/2022

Sherri R. arter Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, (Secretario), by P Pamaran, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served , 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21/23

CNS-3664015#

Vigil reaffirms that every life is significant

[Arellano, from B1]

At the same time, half a mile up Main Street, a different kind of vigil was unfolding in a fourth-floor conference room at LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, for a disaster that happened 75 years ago.

On Jan. 28, 1948, a plane crashed near Los Gatos Canyon 20 miles west of Coalinga, instantly killing all 32 people aboard. It was at the time the worst aviation accident in California history. While newspapers identified and ran portraits of the four white people who had been on the plane, 28 Mexican passengers were labeled only as “deportees” because the flight was a U.S. Immigration Services charter headed to Mexico.

The pilot, first officer, stewardess and an immigration official who were white received burials in their hometowns. The Mexicans — many of whom were part of the bracero program and working in the U.S. legally — were buried in a mass grave in Fresno, with a small plaque bearing none of their names.

This erasure so angered legendary folk singer Woody Guthrie that he wrote “Deportee (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos),” a track covered by the likes of the Byrds, Dolly Parton, Bruce Springsteen and Tom Morello. It’s an unsparing indictment of how Americans can blithely dismiss so much death when the deceased don’t look like them.

It took until 2013 for a tombstone with the names of the so-called deportees to finally grace their mass grave.

Author Tim Z. Hernandez, who helped raise money for the marker, has made it his life’s work to track down the victims’ descendants — many of whom knew only that an ancestor had perished in a plane crash in the United States — and share the lost stories via a book, videos, lectures and more. The University of Texas at El Paso professor has connected with 13 families and vows not to stop until he has found them all.

At LA Plaza, Hernandez continued his decadelong vigil with a musical and spoken-word performance.

Gone are the days when strangers cried for a couple of weeks after a massacre, put up a monument, then left the family and friends of the deceased to their pain while the monument rusted or faded away. Now, we’re called to see each tragedy as a teachable moment and urged to remember victims for how they lived instead of how they died.

“They’re never going to go away,” Hernandez said before his performance, referring to mass deaths involving migrants in California. “So I feel like as long as they happen, [the 1948 crash] teaches us things.”

Around 80 people packed into LA Plaza’s conference room. Behind them, in a small reception area, stood poster boards with names and photos of some of the 1948 crash victims.

Richard Montoya of Culture Clash began the event with a short monologue name-checking last week’s massacres and Nichols’ death.

“These things are horrific,” Montoya said to murmurs of sad approval. “They shake us to our core.”

He then praised Hernandez for “plant[ing] a flag firmly into that notion that we will account for each and every life.

“By gathering tonight,”

he said, “you’re holding on to these threads of sanity ... in the face of madness.”

Hernandez proceeded to tell the story of the plane crash, its victims, the ignominy of their erasure and his journey to resurrect their stories and share them with the world. Historical photos flashed behind him on a television. His partner, Ana Saldana, offered musical interludes powered by her strong voice and comforting ukulele.

“Consider [this] an offer of light and love,” Hernandez said at one point, “in these difficult times.”

There were tears from the crowd, which included former Los Angeles Councilmember Gil Cedillo, whom Montoya teased for arriving late. But there was also laughter, as Hernandez acted out how he had to ask the macho father of a female cinematographer if she could accompany him on an interview. Applause when Hernandez offered clever couplets. Shouts of approval for Saldana’s emotional rendition of “México Lindo y Querido,” the classic ranchera that asks the living to take the protagonist back to Mexico if he should die away from his home country.

As the evening proceeded, the victims of the 1948 crash came to life.

They were more than just farmworkers whose lives ended in a fiery calamity. They were baseball players. Artists. Fathers and sons and uncles. They planned to get married. They liked to sew.

Near the end, Hernandez invited Mike Rodriguez Jr. to join him. In 2015, the Fullerton resident and ethnic studies teacher reached out to Hernandez after hearing him on the public radio program “Latino USA.” Rodriguez had always known that his Tía Maria — his father’s aunt — had passed away in a plane crash in the United States. But his family didn’t know anything about the circumstances, nor her final resting place.

Maria Rodriguez Santana was indeed one of the victims of the Los Gatos Canyon crash.

Rodriguez and Hernandez recited the names of the dead, as Saldana played a mournful melody on a wooden flute. After every name, the crowd chanted “*presente*” — present.

It was a moving presentation, a reminder that life always moves on — but we don’t have to forget those who leave us, or remember them only for the way that they left.

“They had a goal and purpose in life, and they had families that loved them,” said Patty Rodriguez, Mike’s stepmother, during a brief question-and-answer session. “They deserve to be celebrated.”

John Martinez of Upland attended with his wife, Rosa. The two noted how the U.S. government still renders migrants nameless at our southern border, as people who die trying to cross and have no ID are buried in unmarked graves.

“Those families can’t even find them and make their peace,” he said. “Ceremonies like this allow healing.”

Afterward, we gathered again in front of the photos of some of the people whose names we had just invoked.

“Life is precious,” said playwright Josefina Lopez, whose father was a bracero. “We tell evil this way that every life matters. Their life impacted us.”

GUSTAVO ARELLANO Los Angeles Times

PHOTOS at LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes honor victims of a Central California plane crash 75 years later.

CINDY WILLIAMS, 1947 – 2023

Co-star of beloved sitcom ‘Laverne & Shirley’

By NARDINE SAAD

Cindy Williams, who played sweet, wide-eyed Shirley Feeney on the “Happy Days” spinoff “Laverne & Shirley,” has died. She was 75.

Williams died Wednesday in Los Angeles following a brief illness, her children, Zak and Emily Hudson, said in a statement obtained by The Times.

“The passing of our kind, hilarious mother, Cindy Williams, has brought us insurmountable sadness that could never truly be expressed,” the statement said. “Knowing and loving her has been our joy and privilege. She was one of a kind, beautiful, generous and possessed a brilliant sense of humor and a glittering spirit that everyone loved.”

Williams’ Shirley was the optimistic foil to Penny Marshall’s wise-cracking Laverne DeFazio on the iconic sitcom, which featured two 1950s roommates who worked on the assembly line at Milwaukee’s Shottz Brewery.

“When you can find those characters with attitudes who are in sync, they are funny and charming to watch. You see aspects of yourself in the characters’ attitudes,” Williams told The Times in 1993. “Usually in sitcoms, the characters you play are close to you. They are beats within yourself that you really play well.”

Though she might have appeared an expert at pratfalls, Williams was a novice to the sitcom genre when the show premiered in 1976. Before that, she trained in theater in high school and at Los Angeles Community College, then honed her skills when she was accepted by the Actors Studio West alongside Sally Field and Robert De Niro.

The Golden Globe-nominated Williams appeared in George Cukor’s “Travels With My Aunt” and starred in George Lucas’ 1973 nostalgic coming-of-age comedy “American Graffiti” and Francis Ford Coppola’s 1974 film “The Conversation.” She auditioned for Lucas’ “Star Wars” but lost the part of Princess Leia to Carrie Fisher.

It was a fateful meeting with producer Garry Marshall and Fred Roos that put her on the path to skipping down the street chanting, “Schlemiel! Schlemazel! Hasenpfeffer Incorporated” in the opening sequence to “Laverne & Shirley.”

Williams recalled in her memoir “Shirley, I Jest!” that Marshall turned to Roos and said, “I like her.

She’s like a pudgy Barbara Harris,” referring to the Tony-winning Broadway comic. They brought Williams on to their new company, Compass Management; on her first audition, she booked the part of student Rhoda Zagor on James L. Brooks’ popular high-school comedy “Room 222,” one of the first shows featuring Black actors in lead roles.

Williams met Marshall’s younger sister, Penny, through mutual friends. The two were out-of-work actresses when they were hired by Coppola’s company Zoetrope to write a prospective TV spoof for the upcoming bicentennial.

“They got a lot of comedy writers or people who wanted to be comedy writers,” Williams told The Times in 1995. “They wanted two women. We would be assigned a certain aspect of the history of America and write a spoof.”

They had been writing together for a few months when Garry Marshall called to ask if they would like to guest on his ABC series “Happy Days,” which would reunite Williams with her “American Graffiti” co-star Ron Howard.

“Penny said yes, and I said yes, and we went and did it. The rest is kind of history,” she told The Times.

The women became household names after 1975, when their characters — two girls from the other side of the tracks — appeared on “Happy Days” for a double date with Richie (Howard) and Fonzie (Henry Winkler). Created by Garry Marshall, Lowell Ganz and Mark Rothman, the spinoff “Laverne & Shirley” followed the escapades of the blue-collar gals. It launched on ABC in January 1976 and soared to the top of the ratings, becoming the No. 1 show for the 1977-78 and 1978-79 seasons.

Williams learned the genre while on the job: The show’s broad physical comedy was reminiscent of Lucy Ricardo and Ethel Mertz’s high jinks on “I Love Lucy.”

Garry Marshall told The Times in 2012 that “Laverne & Shirley” was “a tough show,” the opposite of the carefree set of “Happy Days” because of the headstrong actresses.

Although the sitcom aired until 1983, Williams, who directed one episode, stayed on it only through 1982, when the final season began.

Amid tension between the stars and her own pregnancy, Williams left the series before giving birth to Emily, her daughter with then-husband Bill Hudson. (They married in 1982, had

two children and divorced in 2000.)

“When it came time for me to sign my contract for that season, they had me working on my due date to have my baby,” Williams told “Today” in 2015. “And I said, ‘You know, I can’t sign this.’ And it went back and forth and back and forth, and it just never got worked out.”

After she left, Williams sued Paramount TV and Garry Marshall for \$20 million, saying they “welched” on a promise to accommodate her pregnancy and pay her \$75,000 per episode plus a piece of the profits.

“The lawsuit is settled, and everything is copacetic,” Williams told The Times in 1985.

Williams and Penny Marshall, who died in 2018, reconciled after the show went off the air. Appearing in a 2015 cast reunion on “Entertainment Tonight,” Williams spoke highly of her TV comrades.

“It’s like an Italian family at a dinner table on Sunday, and somebody doesn’t pass the celery properly,” she said. “There’s always going to be arguments.”

Happiness “was everyone’s goal” on the show, she added, and such was the case for herself and her co-star: “I go to Penny’s house, I get in bed with her, and we watch TV. She’s like my sister.”

The show continued to resonate with audiences for decades, as the cast frequently reunited. In 2013, Williams and Marshall appeared on the Nickelodeon series “Sam and Cat,” a modern-day “Laverne & Shirley” that starred Jenette McCurdy and pop star Ariana Grande in the title roles. It marked the first time Williams and Marshall had worked together on a scripted series in more than 30 years.

“I went to see ‘Wayne’s World,’ and suddenly they’re doing a parody of ‘Laverne & Shirley!’ ” Williams said in an archival interview with the Television Academy. “I called Penny to tell her. She asks, ‘How was it?’ And I said, ‘You will be simultaneously honored and humiliated.’ And that was the spirit that those two characters really embodied. That’s what I love about them.”

When the unpleasantness surrounding her departure had been laid to rest, and after a 2½-year absence from prime-time TV, Williams returned to ABC for a short-lived fish-out-of-water pilot, “Joanna.” It was co-produced by Hudson and Gary Nardino for Paramount after the settlement, which gave the studio first dibs on a pilot for Williams.

She then starred in a slew of ill-fated pilots and a handful of TV movies, including the pilot for “Steel Magnolias” and the series “Getting By” and appeared on Broadway in 2007 in “The Drowsy Chaperone.” She also served as an associate producer of the 1991 hit film “Father of the Bride,” starring Steve Martin.

Williams was born Aug. 22, 1947, in Van Nuys and was a self-proclaimed “Valley Girl.” Her father, Beachard “Bill” Williams, hailed from Texas and Louisiana, with Welsh, French and Cherokee origins, and was an affable man until he started drinking. That drove Williams and her mother, Frances, an Italian American, to move in with her grandmother in Texas. Her parents reconciled a year later and had two

more kids, Carol and Jimmy.

While her parents and grandmother worked, Williams at 4 became “an underage home health aide” to a woman who rented a bedroom from her grandmother. When the family bought a TV in 1951, Williams watched everything — even cigarette commercials — which she would “mimic, memorize and reenact,” according to her memoir.

The family moved back to Van Nuys when she was 10, and Williams began putting on shows in the garage that would attract the neighborhood kids. She then put on a full-fledged talent show at the First Methodist Church in Reseda.

“I was a pretty funny kid,” she told The Times in 1993. “I could see the humor in things.”

In high school, she caught the eye of the drama teacher by performing Bob Newhart’s routine “The Driving Instructor” for a talent show. She enrolled in a play production course, which she took alongside Sally Field.

Williams, like Shirley, started out working-class. She held odd jobs at a law firm, a bank, IHOP and the Whisky a Go Go to pay for her college books.

“I come from such a normal background,” she told The Times. “I’ve had bizarre times in my life. I was a hippie in the ‘60s. But basically, I’m real normal. I like to go around the house at bedtime and turn off all the lights. Sometimes I even take the hangers back to the dry cleaners so they can use them again.”

OBITUARY NOTICES

Place a paid notice latimes.com/placeobituary
Search obituary notice archives: legacy.com/obituaries/latimes

Los Angeles Times

KATES, Joyce

August 28, 1927 - January 25, 2023

Our beloved Joyce Kates died on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at the age of 95. A native of Los Angeles, Joyce attended Los Angeles High School and UCLA. She married Harvey in 1948 and was an accomplished homemaker. She is survived by daughter Marcy (David Oppenheimer), son Gary (Lynne Diamond), grandchildren Joel, Jordan, Alex, Miriam, Emily, Max, and Rena, eight great-grandchildren, and a large loving extended family. We are blessed by her memory. Services Monday, January 30 10:00AM at Hillside.

LAL, Dheeraj

August 25, 1938 - January 24, 2023

Dr. Dheeraj Lal of Newport Beach, CA (prev. of Upland, CA) was born in Hyderabad, India, to Dr. Ram Lal and Durga Bai. He was a loving husband & father, respected physician, voracious reader, and avid bridge player. He is survived by his daughter, Manju Lal, son, Dr. Ashwini Lal, brothers, Govind Lal (Mohana) & Dr. Roop Lal (Veena) and a large extended family. Funeral at 10am, Feb. 2, Pacific View Mortuary (3500 Pacific View Dr., Corona Del Mar).

PEUKERT, Sister Rose

Adrian

August 6, 1930 - January 8, 2023

Sister Rose Adrian Peukert was born in Los Angeles on August 6, 1930 and died in Santa Monica on January 8, 2023. Sister Rose Adrian was the daughter of Albert and Adriana Peukert of Oxnard, CA, and had two sisters. Sister enjoyed elementary school teaching, supervising High School Students, as well as working with College students. She also worked as house coordinator for Carondelet Center. In her free time, she wrote poetry and loved to go camping with her friends.

Donations in memory of Sister Rose Adrian Peukert may be sent to: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, 11999 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Visit the mortuary's website, www.LAFuneral.com to send the family messages and share memories.

Lighthouse
Memorial & Records
(310) 792-7575



RAYOR, Franklin Nathan

March 2, 1924 - January 28, 2023

Our patriarch, Franklin Nathan Rayor, left this world on January 28, 2023 at the age of 98. A “life well lived” only begins to describe his journey, during which he placed the highest value on cherished times enjoyed with family and friends. Frank grew up in Los Angeles and was a proud graduate of Dorsey High School, class of summer of ‘42. After a brief stint in the army, he went into business with his brother, buying a malt shop in Inglewood and meeting a beautiful waitress, Marion Noe. They were married in 1947 and had 4 children. In 1950, he went into the real estate business owning Rayor & Co. In 1963, he was a founding director of Imperial Bank, overseeing the Real Estate Department until his retirement. Frank was a world traveler, but his favorite place on earth was Paris, France.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, his daughter, Cheryl Eiser, and his son, Frederick Rayor. He is survived by his daughter, Cathryn Boyd and son, Robert Rayor, 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. His family will be forever grateful to the kind and loving staff at The Kensington in Redondo Beach and to his personal caretaker, Elsi.

Services will be held at Hillside Memorial Park on Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 10:00 am

RICHARDSON, David N.

May 21, 1959 - December 5, 2022

David Richardson passed away on December 5, 2022, after a short illness. He was much loved by his family and friends. Funeral services will take place in February.

ROSENBERG, Jason

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainaparks.org

ROTLAHL, Marlene

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainaparks.org



SINGER, Richard (Dick)

Carl

May 29, 1943 - January 27, 2023

Dick Singer passed away peacefully 1/27/2023 at Sunrise Assisted Living facility in Claremont, California. Dick is survived by his son Steve Singer, daughters Bobbi Singer, Jennifer Singer and Cathy Singer, his dear friend Cellie Brennan, all in California, and his brother Stan Singer and Stan's partner Nancy Hoxie of Mount Vernon, Washington.

Dick was born in New York and raised in San Diego, California. Dick served 4 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. After his enlistment, he earned his BS in Industrial Art at San Diego State University. Dick taught high school in Fullerton, California and at the Orange County Community College for 15 years. After teaching, Dick worked for Hughes Aircraft, Aerojet Electronic Systems and Northrop Grumman in Quality Assurance until his retirement.

Dick enjoyed Opera, tennis, and sailing his 26' MacGregor sailboat with the MacGregor Yacht Club. He found his beloved Fidelis, a 47' ketch and sailed it to its new home in Wilmington, California where he lived on Fidelis for the next 20+ years.

STRIN, Wendy Lisette

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainaparks.org

TIANO, Marvin E

April 4, 1944 - January 26, 2023

Our dear brother & friend Marvin E. Tiano, born April 4, 1944 summoned January 26, 2023, always with a smile, with humor & kind words, a true patriot who sailed the seven seas. He will be missed by family, friends & all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Stacey, his brothers Jack & Norman & sisters Cathy & Marianne, nieces & nephews.

Funeral services at Mount Sinai Memorial Park, 5950 Forest Lawn Dr. at 2:00 p.m.

To place
an obituary ad
please go online to:

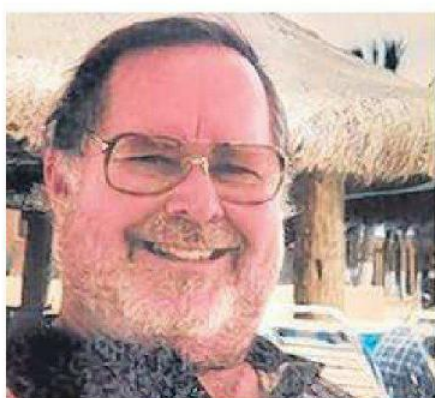
latimes.com/placeobituary

or call

1-800-234-4444

Los Angeles Times

To place an obituary ad please go online to:
latimes.com/placeobituary



Lee Hennis

April 9, 1943 - January 21, 2023

Lee Hennis, 79, a longtime resident of Hermosa Beach and prominent aerospace engineer, passed away on Jan. 21 after a short illness. Lee is survived by Trese, his wife of 44 years, who resides in Hermosa Beach, and George and Debbie Robinson, his brother and sister-in-law of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The son of Ernest and Helene Hennis, Lee moved from New Hampshire to Southern California with his family in 1961 when he was 18 years old. He attended the University of Southern California, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in aeronautical engineering, as well as an MBA. A brilliant career engineer, Lee was the recipient of a Hughes Masters Fellowship in Engineering and a Hughes Master Fellowship for his MBA.

In a career spanning 33 years at Hughes Space & Communications, Lee rose steadily up the ranks, participating in the design and operation of spacecrafts, with special expertise in their thermal control systems. Among many high-profile projects, he played major roles in the Jupiter and Galileo space probes, as well as the Pioneer Venus Space Probe. Eventually as manager of the thermal physics department at Hughes, he oversaw the work of more than 60 engineers, with overall responsibility for thermal analysis, design and testing of all Hughes satellites. During his tenure at Hughes, Lee and his wife Trese were famous for their legendary Christmas parties hosted at their home for the entire engineering staff of Lee's department. After retiring in 1999, Lee continued to consult for Boeing Satellite Systems (which acquired Hughes) through 2006, where he supported 15 launches and missions, and mentored junior engineers.

A lively conversationalist with a wicked sense of humor, Lee enjoyed life to the fullest with a wide circle of lifelong friends in Hermosa and Redondo Beach, plus many former professional colleagues. He became an avid collector of California plein air artists, attending annual shows of the Plein Air Society on Catalina Island and at other locations. He and Trese vacationed in Cabo San Lucas twice a year, as well as other warm weather destinations with beautiful beaches, ocean sunsets and fine dining. Lee continued following the news, financial markets, and keeping up with his wide network of friends online throughout his retirement years. All those who knew him were blessed by his big smile, infectious laugh, sparkling wit and his overall joie de vivre.

A memorial service to celebrate Lee's life will be held February 9th, from 4-7:00 pm at Lighthouse Memorials & Receptions—Rice Center at 5310 Torrance Blvd in Torrance, CA. Donations in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, KOCE Public Television or the University of Southern California Aeronautical Department.



GARY GERSHOFF Getty Images

‘ONE OF A KIND’

Cindy Williams played sweet, wide-eyed Shirley Feeney, the optimistic foil to Penny Marshall’s wise-cracking Laverne DeFazio in “Laverne & Shirley.”

Husband charged in cliff crash

[Patel, from B1] bled 250 to 300 feet, with authorities describing the family’s rescue as an “absolute miracle.”

But the miracle quickly turned dark after police arrested Patel while he was still hospitalized, saying investigators had probable cause to believe the crash was intentional.

On top of Neha’s statement, prosecutors also secured video from a tunnel just before the crash site that shows Patel “making a sharp right turn over the cliff,” Wagstaffe said. Prosecutors have also spoken to

two witnesses in cars that were behind the Patels who will testify that they did not see the Tesla attempt to brake before going over the cliff, he said.

The district attorney’s office is also hoping to interview the daughter, though the family has declined to make the girl available, Wagstaffe said.

“We have concluded that the evidence supports the fact that he intentionally drove his vehicle over that cliff, thereby obviously endangering not just his wife and two children but his own life,” Wagstaffe said at a

news conference Monday after Patel’s initial appearance in court.

Patel was ordered held without bail.

The arrest shocked the Patels’ neighbors on their tree-lined cul-de-sac in Pasadena.

Patel was a radiologist at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills.

“They’re a beautiful, idyllic family, no indication of issues,” said Roger Newmark, a neighbor who has lived on the block more than 40 years.

“It’s so strange because he is a great guy.”

Today in Southern California

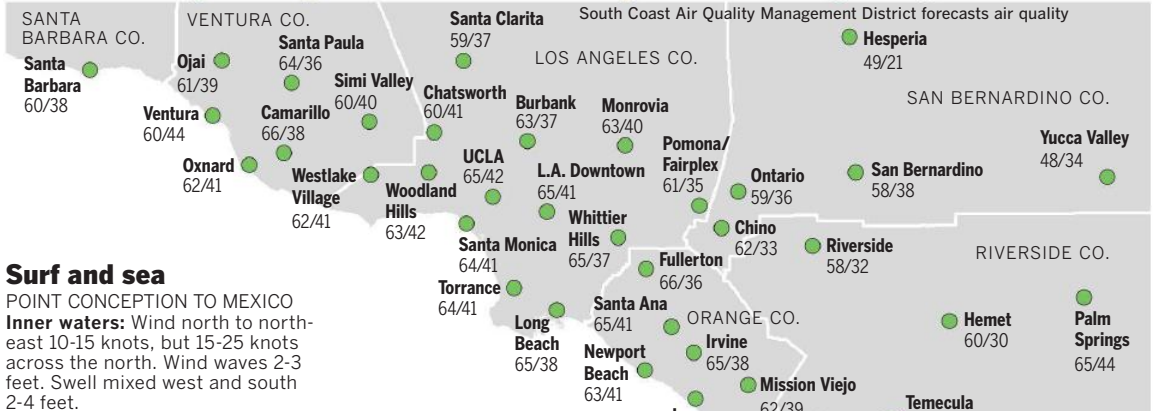
Showers and snow above 3,000 feet: As the recent upper-level low moves away to the east and high pressure builds to the north, there will be a flow that supports moderate Santa Ana winds today. Lighter offshore flow will continue tonight and Wednesday with mainly clear skies. Sun will mix with clouds ahead of a front Thursday that may bring a shower as far south as Santa Barbara County at night.

5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin	Valleys	Beaches	Mountains	Deserts
Today	65 41 Lots of sun	61 42 Sunny; windy	64 41 Lots of sunshine	30 10 Brisk and cold	65 44 Mostly sunny
Wednesday	Mostly sunny 64/44	Mostly sunny 64/41	Mostly sunny 64/40	Not as cold 39/11	Sunny 72/46
Thursday	Some sun 66/46	Some sun 67/44	Partly sunny 64/45	Some sun 45/25	Some sun 69/52
Friday	Mostly cloudy 68/46	Mostly cloudy 65/45	Mostly cloudy 64/45	Mostly sunny 49/22	Mostly sunny 75/49
Saturday	Mostly sunny 68/47	Mostly sunny 67/46	Mostly sunny 66/49	Sunny 48/24	Sunny 75/50

Air quality



Surf and sea
POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO
Inner waters: Wind north to north-east 10-15 knots, but 15-25 knots across the north. Wind waves 2-3 feet. Swell mixed west and south 2-4 feet.

Surf zone: The risk of strong rip currents is moderate at L.A., Ventura and S.D. county beaches and low at S.B. and O.C. beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	11 sec	W	57
Ventura	2-4'	12 sec	W	57
Los Angeles	2-4'	13 sec	SW	58
Orange	1-3'	13 sec	SW	58
San Diego	2-4'	13 sec	SW	58

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.				
Today	5:23a	5.2 Hi	1:08p	-0.2 Lo
	8:06p	3.4 Hi	11:58p	2.7 Lo
Wed.	6:11a	5.4 Hi	1:47p	-0.5 Lo
	8:37p	3.5 Hi	-----	Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people
Las Vegas, 45 Phoenix, 60
Los Angeles, 45 San Francisco, 45

California cities

City	Monday	Today	Wed.
	Hi Lo Prcp.	Hi Lo	Hi Lo
Anaheim	60 49 .04	64 38	66 42
Avalon/Catalina	49 44 --	55 46	58 48
Bakersfield	47 41 .33	56 34	59 37
Barstow	54 39 --	53 30	58 35
Big Bear Lake	32 20 .10	30 10	39 11
Bishop	39 25 Tr	47 23	53 24
Burbank	56 45 .37	63 37	66 39
Camarillo	61 47 .93	66 38	67 40
Chatsworth	56 44 .19	60 41	64 39
Chino	60 44 .06	62 33	66 36
Compton	60 48 .35	65 38	66 41
Dana Point	56 48 .38	62 42	60 44
Death Valley	64 48 --	64 43	65 45
Del Mar	53 48 Tr	59 41	60 43
Escondido	55 47 45	61 33	64 35
Eureka	56 27 --	51 35	54 40
Fallbrook	56 47 .30	62 35	63 36
Fresno	53 37 --	56 34	60 37
Fullerton	62 51 10	66 36	68 41
Hemet	55 42 10	60 30	63 30
Hesperia	48 36 xx	49 21	54 30
Huntington Beach	62 49 54	63 40	62 44
Idyllwild	43 29 22	42 30	49 31
Irvine	60 47 .36	65 38	67 44

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set
Los Angeles Co. 6:51a/5:22p
Orange Co. 6:50a/5:21p
Ventura Co. 6:56a/5:26p
Moon 1:02p/3:13a 1:01p/3:11a 1:05p/3:17a



Almanac

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	61/49	62/51	59/45
Normal high/low	68/49	69/47	66/44
High/low a year ago	70/43	69/42	74/49
Record high/date	85/1992	86/2003	84/1962
Record low/date	35/1880	33/2002	31/2002

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.74	0.10	0.24
Season total (since Oct. 1)	13.75	11.04	13.57
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	10.36	5.47	9.54
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	7.03	5.85	7.93
Humidity (high/low)	89/43	82/47	100/49

City	Monday	Today	Wed.
	Hi Lo Prcp.	Hi Lo	Hi Lo
L.A. D'town/USC	61 49 73	65 41	64 44
L.A. Int'l Airport	59 48 66	64 43	63 44
Laguna Beach	59 48 29	63 41	59 45
Lancaster	52 38 .06	53 21	57 23
Long Beach	60 50 .45	65 38	66 43
Mammoth Lakes	25 7 --	31 13	38 18
Mission Viejo	57 45 46	62 39	66 44
Monrovia	58 43 .36	63 40	66 43
Monterey	58 38 --	58 38	59 41
Mt. Wilson	33 27 --	38 30	44 33
Needles	61 44 --	56 40	63 42
Newport Beach	xx xx xx	63 41	62 47
Northridge	57 43 27	63 41	67 41
Oakland	55 35 --	57 35	58 38
Oceanside	55 47 30	65 35	64 35
Ojai	62 39 62	61 39	64 40
Ontario	58 44 .06	59 36	65 38
Palm Springs	62 46 Tr	65 44	72 46
Pasadena	61 45 67	63 40	63 44
Paso Robles	55 36 06	57 28	61 29
Redding	54 37 --	60 34	55 32
Riverside	49 40 .01	58 32	63 32
Sacramento	54 35 --	54 30	56 33
San Bernardino	57 44 .06	58 38	65 39

City	Monday	Today	Wed.
	Hi Lo Prcp.	Hi Lo	Hi Lo
San Diego	59 51 .29	61 42	62 44
San Francisco	55 43 --	57 41	58 41
San Gabriel	xx xx --	65 39	66 44
San Jose	57 38 --	58 35	61 39
San Luis Obispo	58 43 Tr	62 33	63 37
Santa Ana	59 50 .30	65 41	65 45
Santa Barbara	59 46 .05	60 38	61 40
Santa Clarita	54 42 .06	59 37	65 40
Santa Monica Pier	59 47 --	64 41	64 40
Santa Paula	59 45 .39	64 36	65 41
Santa Rosa	59 28 --	58 29	57 32
Simi Valley	56 44 .18	60 40	65 36
Tahoe Valley	xx xx --	36 15	46 26
Temecula	52 44 .23	61 31	64 35
Thousand Oaks	55 43 19	62 40	66 39
Torrance	57 48 .12	64 41	63 45
UCLA	xx xx --	65 42	64 41
Van Nuys	59 47 .38	64 42	67 41
Ventura	59 45 .24	60 44	62 44
Whittier Hills	61 47 23	65 37	68 42
Woodland Hills	57 44 .16	63 42	66 42
Wrightwood	28 24 xx	35 24	46 27
Yorba Linda	59 48 .02	62 37	66 37
Yosemite Valley	46 22 --	51 25	52 27

RALPH AVILA

By JACK HARRIS

Ralph Avila, an influential former Dodgers executive and scout who led the organization's efforts to develop players in Latin America, particularly in the Dominican Republic, during his tenure from 1970 to 1999, died Monday at 92.

Avila's son, baseball executive Al Avila, told ESPN Deportes that his father died at his home in Miami from natural causes.

Originally hired by the Dodgers as a part-time scout in 1970 after leaving his native Cuba, where he was a semi-pro baseball player, Avila became a key figure in the franchise's operations in the Dominican Republic and other parts of Latin America.

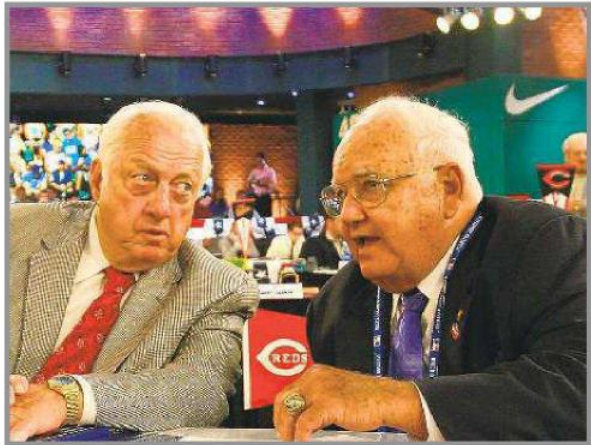
His work helped establish a pipeline of talent that not only bolstered the Dodgers but also contributed to a transformation of the major leagues as a whole, usher-

ing in generations of big league players from Latin American countries in a trend that continues today.

One of Avila's biggest contributions was helping to create the Dodgers' Campo Las Palmas academy in the Dominican Republic. The academy, which opened in 1987, was the first in the Dominican to be operated by a major league team — a productive template for player development that other clubs soon followed, turning the country into the biggest hot spot for big league talent outside of the United States.

"He's got to be classified as an institution," former Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda said at the time of Avila's retirement.

Avila helped sign dozens of major leaguers during his time with the Dodgers and became a mentor to several of baseball's biggest Dominican stars, including Dodgers pitching great Ramón Martínez (as well as his brother, three-time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martínez), former Dodgers outfielder Raúl



MIKE STOBE Getty Images

HELPED DEVELOP TALENT PIPELINE

Ralph Avila, right, speaks to Tommy Lasorda at the 2010 MLB draft. Avila, who was an influential executive and scout for the Dodgers, died Monday at 92.

Mondesi, and former Dodgers infielders Mariano Duncan and José Vizcaino.

"He was like a father figure there," said Vizcaino, who played 18 big league seasons and was first noticed by Avila at a tryout in his small hometown in the Dominican as a teenager.

"He's a legend, a pioneer

of baseball," Vizcaino added, calling Avila and Epy Guerrero, another early Dominican scout best known for his work with the Toronto Blue Jays, "the two main guys that put Dominican baseball on the map."

Even after his retirement, Avila continued to serve in an advisory role with the

Dodgers while also maintaining a presence in the Latin American baseball community.

He aided a school for disadvantaged children in the Dominican Republic called Futuro Vivo. He assisted with the Dominican Summer League and national team. He even was knighted by the Dominican president for his role in advancing baseball in the country.

"I was born in Cuba, and I'm a U.S. citizen," Avila said in 2006. "But in the bottom of my heart, I am Dominican."

Monday's news struck deep for many members of the Dodgers organization, especially those in the international scouting department.

Roman Barinas, the Dodgers' Latin America supervisor, said the staff was on a video call Monday discussing the club's newest international signing class when they learned of Avila's death.

"It was special for us to reminisce on that call," said Barinas, who got his start

with the Dodgers working at Campo Las Palmas 15 years ago. "He just understood so many different aspects of international baseball as a whole."

Vizcaino, who is now a special instructor in the Dodgers organization, also fondly reflected upon Avila's legacy Monday night.

"Every single kid in the Dominican wanted to sign with the Dodgers because of Campo Las Palmas," Vizcaino said. "That was the first complex in the Dominican by a major league team. ... And you look now, all 30 teams have an academy there."

The Avila family name is still prominent in the major leagues. Al Avila was the Detroit Tigers' general manager until August. Avila's grandson, Alex, spent 13 years in the majors as a catcher before joining MLB Network as an analyst last year.

Times staff writer Jorge Castillo contributed to this article.



STEPHEN SPILLMAN Associated Press

BAYLOR'S Keyonte George drives against Texas' Timmy Allen. The first-place Longhorns won 76-71.

TOP 25 COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 10 Texas holds off No. 11 Baylor

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SirJabari Rice scored 21 points to help send No. 10 Texas to a 76-71 victory over No. 11 Baylor on Monday night in Austin, ending the Bears' six-game winning streak and putting the Longhorns in sole possession of first place in the Big 12 Conference.

The Bears (16-6, 5-4) closed to within 72-71 on Keyonte George's three-point play before the Longhorns (18-4, 7-2) answered with Marcus Carr's fallaway jumper with 27 seconds left.

LJ Cryer scored 19 points to lead Baylor.

Iowa State 77 (OT): The Red Raiders (12-10, 1-8) erased a 23-point deficit after halftime for their first Big 12 win, with De'Vion Harmon scoring all 16 of his points after halftime in an overtime victory over the Cyclones (15-6, 6-3).

No. 6 Virginia 67, at Syracuse 62: Jayden Gardner scored 17 points, and the Cavaliers (17-3, 9-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) held off the Orange (13-10, 6-6).

Women
at No. 3 Louisiana State 76, Tennessee 68: Alexis Morris scored 31 points, and the Tigers (21-0, 9-0 Southeastern Conference) beat the Volunteers (16-8, 8-1).

at No. 8 Maryland 87, Penn State 66: Abby Meyers had 24 points as the Terrapins (18-4, 9-2 Big Ten Conference) routed the Nittany Lions (12-10, 3-8).

Notes
Purdue (21-1) became this season's first unanimous No. 1 team in the Associated Press men's poll. UCLA (17-4, 8-2 Pac-12), which lost 77-64 at USC on Thursday, fell one spot to No. 9. South Carolina and Stanford for the women's poll. UCLA (17-5, 6-4 Pac-12), which lost at Colorado on Friday and at Utah on Sunday, fell six spots to No. 14. ... Texas Christian top scorer Mike Miles Jr. (hyper-extended knee) will miss Tuesday's game.

AP men's top 25

School	W-L	13. Iowa State	15-5
1. Purdue	21-1	14. Marquette	17-5
2. Tennessee	18-3	15. Tex. Christian	16-5
3. Houston	20-2	16. Xavier	17-5
4. Alabama	18-3	17. Providence	17-5
5. Arizona	19-3	18. Saint Mary's	19-4
6. Virginia	16-3	19. Fla. Atlantic	21-1
7. Kansas State	18-3	20. Clemson	18-4
8. Kansas	17-4	21. Indiana	15-6
9. UCLA	17-4	22. San Diego State	17-4
10. Texas	17-4	23. Miami	16-5
11. Baylor	16-5	24. Connecticut	16-6
12. Gonzaga	18-4	25. Auburn	16-5

MEN'S TOP 25 RESULTS
No. 6 Virginia 67, Syracuse 62
No. 10 Texas 76, No. 11 Baylor 71
Texas Tech 80, No. 13 Iowa State 77, OT

WOMEN'S TOP 25 RESULTS
No. 3 Louisiana State 76, Tennessee 68
No. 8 Maryland 87, Penn State 66

at Texas Tech 80, No. 13

NBA



COREY SIPKIN Associated Press

RUI HACHIMURA, who had 16 points and four rebounds but shot only three for six from the free-throw line, is fouled by Nets forward Royce O'Neale. The Lakers missed 14 free throws in the loss.

Lakers fall short versus Nets

[**Lakers**, from B10]

The Lakers missed too many threes (18) and too many free throws (14) to win Monday. The games in which they play hard and don't capitalize are adding up as the losses keep them weighed down in the Western Conference standings.

"We've seen it when we're able to play the right way, and we know what it takes," Westbrook said. "It's just really up to us honestly."

Before the game, the Lakers still were stung from losing in Boston on Saturday, the fallout from officials missing a last-second foul by Celtics star Jayson Tatum on James rippling through the weekend thanks to the league's last-two-minute report, which confirmed the missed foul, and an apology from the Twitter account run by the union for NBA referees.

"Man, in life you just gotta move on, bro," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said before the game. "It is what it is. Everybody saw what happened. Just gotta move on."

After a miserable first quarter in which the Lakers scored just 16 points, they did what they've sort of done all season.

They continued to push, cutting into the Nets' lead, getting just enough momentum at halftime to attack in the second half.

Ham called the first half "a bit of a hangover." In the third quarter,

LeBron tracker

A look at LeBron James' pursuit of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the all-time scoring record.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
38,387 points

LeBron James
38,271 points

Points from new record: 117

Projected games until record: 5

Projected record date: Feb. 7 vs. Thunder

the Advil, at least briefly, kicked in.

Westbrook moved into sole possession of 10th on the NBA's career assist leaderboard, passing Gary Payton on a dish to Bryant for a dunk in the second quarter.

"Never dreamt of being in this position, next to some of the greats," Westbrook said. "I'm just truly grateful."

The Lakers led by seven points late in the third quarter, but the Nets scored 10 unanswered points to steal back momentum, eventually pushing back in front by dou-

ble digits in the fourth quarter.

The Lakers, then, ran out of gas — their best players on the bench unable to help secure a win.

"We had plays right in front of us," Ham said. "Just have to step up and make them."

The team plays the New York Knicks on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden — a suddenly big game with the Lakers in danger of falling six games below .500 for the first time since losing to Charlotte on Dec. 23.

Though Davis is set to play, there's no guarantee with James, who Ham said will be reevaluated Tuesday morning. James, chasing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the most points in NBA history, is 117 away from setting the record.

But despite another loss, there's still optimism, the Lakers holding on to the stretches of play — such as the third quarter Monday — that suggest the team is better than its record.

"I definitely feel like we're right there, you know," Brown said. "It's just more about turning that curve. And when you're that close, when you lose by two, lose by three or a free throw or don't get a foul call, for me, I don't lose hope. I think that's a sign of good things. It's just that one of these days, we have to turn that curve. Obviously, we don't have all year for that but I think we still have a chance."

Slate allows Clippers to play dynamic duo

[**Clippers**, from B10]

It creates a 12-game window — Game 12 is the first night of that back-to-back set — in which Leonard and George should be available, barring injury, to play every game as the Clippers attempt to make up ground in the Western Conference standings and build chemistry.

All but one of those dozen games are against teams that entered Monday with winning records — and potential playoff teams. Though the Clippers are 19-9 against teams that had losing records the day of their matchup, they are only 9-15 against opponents .500 or better. Beating good teams has been an element missing from the Clippers' credentials, and they know it, with George saying last week that the team's current six-game trip would be a "good test" because of the caliber of opponents.

Left on the trip: visits to 23-26 Chicago, 33-17 Milwaukee, 27-24 New York and 31-19 Brooklyn.

"We'll be tested against six play-off teams," George said of the trip, which began with a 120-113 win in Atlanta on Saturday. "We've just got to accept the challenge."

The roster that begins that 12-game stretch likely won't look the same as the one that ends it. The Clippers have made a trade before the deadline — Feb. 9 this season — each of the last five years and have been linked to point guards such as Fred VanVleet, Kyle Lowry and Mike Conley.

Through all the potentially moving parts, the Clippers seem more prepared for that challenge than at any other point this season because of the Leonard-George pairing.

George averaged 24.4 points, 6.6 assists, 5.8 rebounds and more than a steal while shooting 55% overall and nearly 44% on three-pointers during the winning streak.

Leonard averaged 30 points, 6.6 rebounds, 4.8 assists and another steal while shooting 63%, including 48% on three-pointers.

Both were nominees to be the conference's most recent player of the week.

During the streak that began Jan. 20 and ran through Saturday's win in Atlanta, the Clippers outscored opponents by 46 points in George and Leonard's 136 minutes together, while shooting 59% from the field overall and nearly 48% on three-pointers.

Among 147 pairs of teammates who logged at least 100 minutes together during that week, the George and Leonard pairing registered the second-highest field goal percentage — behind George and center Ivica Zubac at 60%.

The Clippers' championship hopes are built on the team's belief that George and Leonard eventually could look as dominant together as they did during the 2021 postseason, right as Leonard suffered a season-ending knee injury, when each produced 30-point games and stranglehold defense against Utah.

Through fits and starts this season, that pairing again has resembled that vintage.

Lue first noticed Leonard had begun to look like his All-NBA self again during a Dec. 12 win against Boston, but it has been a slow build as he began to gradually trust his surgically repaired knee and display a certain measure of explosiveness that team officials were waiting for to come back.

After watching Leonard return from a quadriceps injury on his own timetable in Toronto in 2019 and gradually build his fitness and sharpen his efficiency over the course of that championship season, his former Raptors and current Clippers teammate Norman Powell said Leonard's progression is nothing new to him.

"The thing about Kawhi is that he's going to do the best for him, work on his game every single day and he's going to play basketball the right way," Powell said last week.

"I think that's what people were frustrated with when he was coming back. He was making the simple play. He wasn't being as aggressive until he got the feel of the game, the rhythm of the game and how he wanted to play."

"Now you see his body and his legs coming together, kind of like midseason form coming into form, shaping up."

Powell added, "I think the media and fans have their own opinions of how somebody should go about their injuries and things like that."

"But us as players, we want to be out there, we want to play."

"We put a lot of time into our game and Kawhi is the same way. Kawhi is always trying to figure out how he can get better. He wants to be out there and help this team win because that's what's most important."

STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. Division standing no longer has any bearing on the rankings. The top six teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded team playing the lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions: S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Denver	34	16	.680	7-3	N1	
2. Memphis	32	18	.640	2	5-5	S1
3. Sacramento	28	21	.571	5½	7-3	P1
4. CLIPPERS	28	25	.528	7½	6-4	P2
5. Golden State	26	24	.520	8	6-4	P3
6. Dallas	27	25	.519	8	4-6	S2
6. Phoenix	27	25	.519	8	6-4	P4
8. New Orleans	26	25	.510	8½	1-9	S3
9. Minnesota	26	26	.509	8½	6-4	N2
10. Utah	26	26	.500	9	6-4	N3

11. Oklahoma City	24	26	.480	10	6-4	N4
11. Portland	24	26	.480	10	5-5	N5
13. LAKERS	23	28	.451	11½	4-6	P5
14. San Antonio	14	37	.275	20½	1-9	S4
15. Houston	12	38	.240	22	2-8	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Boston	36	15	.706	7-3	A1	
2. Milwaukee	33	17	.660	2½	7-3	C1
3. Philadelphia	32	17	.653	3	8-2	A2
4. Brooklyn	31	19	.620	4½	4-6	A3
5. Cleveland	31	21	.596	5½	5-5	C2
6. Miami	28	23	.549	8	7-3	S1
7. New York	27	24	.529	9	5-5	A4
8. Atlanta	25	26	.490	11	6-4	S2
9. Washington	24	26	.480	11½	7-3	S3
10. Chicago	23	26	.469	12	5-5	C3

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Brooklyn 121, LAKERS 104	Orlando 119, Philadelphia 109
Dallas 111, Detroit 105	Golden St. 128, Oklahoma City 120
Phoenix 114, Toronto 106	Washington 127, San Antonio 106
Portland 129, Atlanta 125	Sacramento 118, Minnesota 111, OK

TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
at New York	1½	LAKERS	4:30 p.m.
CLIPPERS	3	at Chicago	5 p.m.
at Cleveland	4	Miami	4 p.m.
at Milwaukee	11½	Charlotte	5 p.m.
at Denver	8½	New Orleans	7 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Sunday's games

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Embiid, PHI	36	406	360	1215	33.8
Donicic, DAL	45	500	362	1485	33.0
Antetokounmpo, MIL	39	435	336	1238	31.7
Tatum, BOS	48	485	366	1493	31.1
Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	45	466	414	1391	30.9
James, LAKERS	40	465	191	1209	30.2
Lillard, POR	37	341	281	1114	30.1
Durant, BKN	39	410	267	1158	29.7
Mitchell, CLE	42	404	206	1170	27.9
Irving, BKN	38	382	148	1038	27.3
Morant, MEM	42	407	261	1145	27.3

BROOKLYN 121, LAKERS 104

LAKERS						
	Min	FG-A	FTA-RT	A	P	T
Brown Jr.	31	4-8	1-2	7-17	4	0 11
Hachimura	27	6-13	3-6	2-4	1	0 16
Bryant	26	7-8	3-7	2-9	0	1 18
Beverley	34	1-8	2-2	0-1	3	4 5
Schroder	33	2-15	5-6	0-6	5	3 10
Westbrook	29	5-15	4-7	2-8	10	2 17
Walker IV	22	4-9	3-3	0-1	0	3 13
Gabriel	15	5-10	1-2	1-4	0	0 11
Tson-Anderson	7	0-1	0-0	2-2	1	1 0
Christie	7	1-2	1-2	0-1	0	2 3
Jones	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0 0
Totals	35-89	23-37	16-53	24	16	104

Shooting: Field goals, 39.3%; free throws, 62.2%.

Three-point goals: 11-29 (Westbrook 3-6, Brown Jr. 2-3, Walker IV 2-4, Bryant 1-2, Hachimura 1-2, Schroder 1-4, Beverley 1-5, Christie 0-1, Gabriel 0-2). Team Rebounds: 14. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Bryant, Walker IV, Westbrook). Turnovers: 14 (Westbrook 6, Brown Jr. 2, Bryant, Christie, Hachimura, Jones, Toscano-Anderson, Walker IV). Steals: 1 (Westbrook). Technical Fouls: Beverly, 5:29 first.

BROOKLYN

	Min	FG-A	FTA-RT	A	P	T
Harris	17	1-5	0-0	0-2	3	3 3
O'Neale	28	5-10	1-1	1-6	3	3 14
Claxton	26	3-7	0-0	2-12	3	3 6
Curry	21	3-11	0-0	0-2	0	1 6
Irving	38	7-16	9-11	1-7	6	4 26
Mills	26	7-12	3-3	0-0	3	2 21
Thomas	23	8-13	1-1	0-4	1	0 12
Watanabe	21	5-7	1-3	0-1	0	1 21
Sharpe	20	4-8	0-0	8-14	3	5 8
Summer	8	1-5	0-0	1-2	0	2 0
Morris	7	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	2 2
Totals	45-95	15-19	12-50	24	25	121

Shooting: Field goals, 47.4%; free throws, 78.9%.

Three-point goals: 16-41 (Thomas 4-6, Mills 4-7, Irving 3-7, O'Neale 3-7, Watanabe 1-3, Harris 1-5, Summer 0-1, Curry 0-5). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 9 (Sharpe 2, Watanabe 2, Claxton, Harris, Irving, Morris, O'Neale). Turnovers: 9 (Thomas 3, Claxton 2, Irving 2, Morris, Sharpe). Steals: 8 (Irving 2, Mills 2, O'Neale 2, Claxton, Sharpe). Technical Fouls: Claxton, 7:48 second.

Lakers 16 30 36 22-104

Brooklyn 29 29 27 36-121

A-17,924. T-219.

Golden State 128, Okla. City 120

GOLDEN STATE						
	Min	FG-A	FTA-RT	A	P	T
Thompson	36	10-21	2-2	0-7	3	2 28
An.Wiggins	32	7-13	0-0	0-4	1	4 15
D.Green	31	3-4	1-2	1-2	3	7 3
Curry	36	12-20	6-6	1-8	12	0 38
Poole	30	4-10	0-0	0-4	1	15
DiVincenzo	26	3-8	0-0	0-4	3	2 8
Gilgeous-Alexander	36	10-24	10-10	4-7	7	3 31
Joe	25	4-7	0-0	0-3	0	3 10
Jay Williams	17	5-9	0-0	2-8	3	1 2
Muscala	14	2-3	2-2	0-2	1	8
Mom	12	2-4	0-0	0-1	0	2 5
Bailey	9	1-1	0-0	0-2	1	2
Dieng	6	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	2 2
Totals	46-93	17-20	8-43	23	18	128

Shooting: Field goals, 51.1%; free throws, 80.0%.

Three-point goals: 20-47 (Curry 8-14, Thompson 6-14, DiVincenzo 2-5, Poole 2-6, Lamb 1-1, An.Wiggins 1-4, D.Green 0-1, Kuminga 0-2). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (An.Wiggins 2, Curry, Looney). Turnovers: 15 (Curry 4, D.Green 3, DiVincenzo 2, Poole 2, Thompson 2, An.Wiggins, Lamb). Steals: 9 (DiVincenzo 3, D.Green 2, Poole 2, An.Wiggins, Thompson). Technical Fouls: None.

OKLAHOMA CITY

	Min	FG-A	FTA-RT	A	P	T
Aa.Wiggins	22	1-2	0-0	1-2	0	1 3
Jal.Williams	30	8-14	2-2	1-4	2	1 19
K.Williams	33	3-9	1-2	2-8	2	1 7
Giddey	29	9-18	2-4	2-8	6	2 21
Gilgeous-Alexander	36	10-24	10-10	4-7	7	3 31
Joe	25	4-7	0-0	0-3	0	3 10
Jay Williams	17	5-9	0-0	2-8	3	1 2
Muscala	14	2-3	2-2	0-2	1	8
Mom	12	2-4	0-0	0-1	0	2 5
Bailey	9	1-1	0-0	0-2	1	2
Dieng	6	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	2 2
Totals	46-93	17-20	8-43	23	18	120

Shooting: Field goals, 49.5%; free throws, 85.0%.

Three-point goals: 11-24 (Muscala 2-2, Jay Williams 2-3, Day 2-5, Jal.Williams 1-3, Dieng 0-1, K.Williams 0-2). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 4 (Gilgeous-Alexander 3, Jal.Williams). Turnovers: 16 (Giddey 5, Gilgeous-Alexander 5, K.Williams 2, Mann 2, Bazley, Jal.Williams). Steals: 10 (Giddey 3, K.Williams 3, Jal.Williams, Jay Williams, Mann, Muscala). Technical Fouls: None.

Golden State 38 25 31 34-128

Oklahoma City 20 25 37 35-120

A-16,854. T-209.



SUE OGROCKI Associated Press

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Hall of Famer, Blackhawks icon Hull dies

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Bobby Hull, a Hall of Fame forward who helped the Chicago Blackhawks win the 1961 Stanley Cup Final, has died. He was 84.

The Blackhawks and the NHL Alumni Assn. announced the death of the two-time NHL most valuable player Monday. There were no further details provided by either organization.

The Blackhawks said Hull “delivered countless memories to our fans, whom he adored. Generations of Chicagoans were dazzled by Bobby’s shooting prowess, skating skill and overall team leadership that led to 604 career goals, a franchise record that remains to this day. We send our deepest sympathies to the Hull family.”

Hull was one of the most

prolific scorers in NHL history, leading the league in goals seven times. Nicknamed “The Golden Jet” for his speed and blond hair, he posted 13 consecutive seasons with 30 goals or more from 1959 to 1972.

Hull and **Stan Mikita** powered Chicago to the NHL title in 1961. Hull remains the Blackhawks’ career leader with 62 playoff goals.

Hull was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1983, and his No. 9 sweater was retired by Chicago that same year. He was estranged from the Blackhawks for a while before he was named a team ambassador in 2008.

The franchise announced in February 2022 that Hull had retired from any official team role, calling it a joint decision.

“Bobby Hull will always be remembered as one of the

greatest Blackhawks players of all time. He was a beloved member of the Blackhawks family,” owner Rocky Wirtz said in a statement.

The New York Islanders acquired center **Bo Horvat** from Vancouver for forward **Anthony Beauvillier**, prospect **Aatu Raty** and a conditional, protected first-round pick in the 2023 draft. Horvat, 27, is a pending free agent and was one of the top rentals available ahead of the March 3 trade deadline.

ETC.

Doncic scores 53 in comeback win

Luka Doncic had 53 points in his return to the lineup and **Spencer Dinwiddie** scored 10 of his 12 in the

fourth quarter as the host Dallas Mavericks rallied to beat the Detroit Pistons 111-105.

Four of Doncic’s five career 50-point games have come this season. He scored a career-best 60 against the New York Knicks in a Dec. 27 game that went to overtime.

Doncic had 24 points in the first quarter and 18 in the third. Second in the NBA before the game in scoring average (33), he returned after spraining his left ankle early in Thursday’s game at Phoenix and then missing Saturday’s game at Utah.

Washington ended a 22-game losing streak in San Antonio with a 127-106 win. ... Boston’s **Joe Mazzulla** will coach captain **Giannis Antetokounmpo**’s team in the All-Star Game.

The Kansas City Royals

and pitcher **Zack Greinke** agreed to a contract for the upcoming season, the Associated Press reported. The deal was not announced because he still needed to pass a physical. ... Miami acquired right-handed reliever **Matt Barnes** and cash considerations from Boston for left-hander **Richard Bleier**. ... Right-hander **Darren O’Day**, who had a 4.15 earned-run average in 28 games with Atlanta last year, retired after 15 seasons. ... A new ballpark for Tampa Bay will be built near the current one under plans unveiled as part of a massive redevelopment project. ... Broadcaster **Chip Caray** is taking over as St. Louis’ play-by-play voice.

Novak Djokovic’s Australian Open championship returned him to No. 1 in the ATP rankings. **Aryna Sa-**

balenka’s first major title moved her from No. 5 to a career-best-equaling No. 2 in the WTA rankings, behind only three-time major champion **Iga Swiatek**.

Louisville reached a 20-year, \$41-million agreement with L&N Federal Credit Union through 2042 to rename its Cardinal Stadium home football field.

U.S. Soccer introduced a Safe Soccer program that will require comprehensive vetting of people involved in the sport as the federation continues to address its investigation into coach misconduct in the National Women’s Soccer League.

World champion halfpipe skier **Kyle Smaime**, 31, died after getting buried in an avalanche in the mountains of central Japan. **STORY, B3**



CHIEFS TIGHT END Travis Kelce, left, talks to his older brother, Eagles center Jason Kelce, after Kansas City’s 27-20 win Sept. 17, 2017. ED ZURGA Associated Press

Kelce brothers set for Super Bowl history

[**Farmer**, from B10] a club-record 140 with the Eagles.

Philadelphia put up a fight in that game, with Jalen Hurts throwing for 387 yards and two touchdowns. But three other would-be touchdowns were wiped out by penalties, meaning the Eagles had to settle for field goals three times in the red zone.

Seeding was introduced in the NFL playoffs in 1975, and this is the 13th time since then that the league’s

final game pits teams seeded No. 1 in their respective conferences.

This marks the first time brothers will play against each other in the Super Bowl — Philadelphia center Jason Kelce and his younger brother, Travis, star tight end for Kansas City. However, a pair of brothers have squared off in the Super Bowl: In Super Bowl XLVII, Baltimore coach John Harbaugh led the Ravens to a victory over his younger brother, Jim, who coached

San Francisco.

Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie hired Reid and Sirianni out of relative obscurity. The coaches briefly crossed paths in Kansas City in 2013 when Reid became the coach and Sirianni was part of the previous regime, as wide receivers coach under then-coach Romeo Crennel.

So Reid actually showed the future Eagles coach the door, although Sirianni later said the seasoned coach was kind about it.

“Coach Reid was charged with the task of telling me I wasn’t working there anymore,” Sirianni recalled later. “... It was actually an awesome conversation I had with him. And I really respected the fact that he took time to meet with me, tell me what he had heard about me.”

Reid’s staff in Kansas City is loaded with coaches he worked with in Philadelphia, among them special teams coordinator Dave Toub, running backs coach

Greg Lewis, tight ends coach Tom Melvin, trainer Rick Burkholder and former Eagles running back Eric Bieniemy, now in his fifth season as Kansas City’s offensive coordinator.

The last six times the Eagles and Chiefs have played, Reid has emerged victorious.

He has beaten the Eagles three times as coach of the Chiefs.

And the three consecutive wins before that? It’s a Philly thing.

Purdy has torn elbow ligament

ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco 49ers quarterback **Brock Purdy** tore a ligament in his throwing elbow, putting his status for the start of next season in question.

A person familiar with the injury confirmed the diagnosis of the injury Purdy suffered in the 49ers’ 31-7 loss to the host Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC title game Sunday. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity Monday because the team had not released details on the injury.

The NFL Network first reported that Purdy tore the ulnar collateral ligament in his right arm and said he will seek a second opinion on whether he needs a repair or a reconstruction.

A repair of the elbow typically would lead to Purdy being sidelined for six months, which would mean he could return close to the start of training camp. A reconstruction likely would sideline Purdy into next season.

The latest quarterback injury for San Francisco throws another wrench into the team’s plans at the position. The 49ers’ Week 1 starter this season, **Trey Lance**, went down with a season-ending ankle injury in Week 2 that required follow-up surgery last month.

Jimmy Garoppolo replaced Lance but broke his foot in Week 13 and is eligible to be a free agent in March.

Purdy took over and won his first seven starts as a rookie before getting hurt on the first drive Sunday.

“My arm felt like it stretched out,” Purdy said after the game. “It felt like a lot of shocks all over from my elbow down to my wrist. ... Just pain all over.”

Purdy reentered the game in the second half after backup **Josh Johnson** left because of a concussion. Purdy mostly could only hand off the ball.

‘Misery’ for Bengals

Joe Burrow and Cincinnati didn’t have another fantastic finish left in them.

The Bengals had won 10 in a row going into the AFC championship game against the Kansas City Chiefs, a team they had beaten three times in the last 13 months, including in the AFC title game last year.

But too many mistakes doomed the Bengals in Sunday night’s 23-20 loss at Kansas City.

“In football, it’s either winning or misery,” center **Ted Karras** said. “We’re on the misery end tonight.”

Cincinnati’s patchwork offensive line had trouble protecting Burrow, who was sacked five times. The defense couldn’t do enough to contain Chiefs quarterback **Patrick Mahomes**.

Most of Cincinnati’s key players will be back next season. The Bengals already have begun restructuring their finances so they can offer Burrow a rich, multiyear contract extension to keep him in Cincinnati.

Chargers to hire former Cowboys coordinator

[**Chargers**, from B10] Boise State, Moore was Dallas’ offensive coordinator the last four years. In that time, the Cowboys ranked second in the NFL in total offense (averaging 391 yards per game) and scoring (27.7 points per game).

Dallas finished first in points and yards in 2021 and fourth in points and 11th in yards this season.

One of Moore’s tasks will be improving a running game that the Chargers struggled to establish this season. They ranked 30th in yards rushing per game and tied for 30th in yards per rush.

The inability to run cost them significantly in their playoff loss to the Jaguars. After leading 27-0, the Chargers ended up losing 31-30 in part because they couldn’t control the ball or the clock in the second half.

Dallas was ninth in rushing overall in each of the last two seasons. The Cowboys had a 1,000-yard rusher in Tony Pollard (1,007) this season, while teammate Ezekiel Elliott finished with 876 yards.

The Chargers haven’t had a 1,000-yard rusher since Melvin Gordon (1,105) in 2017.



KELLEN MOORE, with Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott, oversaw a Dallas unit that ranked second in total offense and scoring in Moore’s four-year tenure. ASHLEY LANDIS Associated Press

Before beginning the hiring process, Chargers coach Brandon Staley talked about looking for someone familiar with the scheme run

by the Rams’ Sean McVay and San Francisco’s Kyle Shanahan.

“That’s the offense that I believe in,” Staley said.

The Chargers then interviewed three Rams assistants — Zac Robinson (passing game coordinator/quarterbacks coach), Greg

Olson (senior offensive assistant) and Thomas Brown (assistant head coach/tight ends coach).

They also interviewed Jerrod Johnson (Minnesota Vikings assistant quarterbacks coach) and Luke Steckel (Tennessee Titans tight ends coach) before Moore suddenly became available.

Among the Chargers’ next moves will be hiring a quarterbacks coach. Shane Day had the job before being fired along with Lombardi.

Doug Nussmeier was the quarterbacks coach in Dallas. He also was not retained following this season.

With Moore on staff, Dallas won two NFC East titles and made the playoffs three times.

He will take over an offense that features one of the NFL’s top young quarterbacks in Justin Herbert and a touchdown machine in running back Austin Ekeler.

The Chargers finished among the NFL’s top five offenses in points and yards in 2021 but slipped to 13th and ninth in those categories, respectively, this season as injuries decimated Herbert’s offensive line and receiving weapons.

Serra girls getting a taste of gridiron glory



LUCA EVANS Los Angeles Times

GARDENA SERRA girls' flag football players celebrate after their League of Champions title win over Long Beach Poly. "Undefeated," Kaylah Holmes said.

PREP RALLY

Basketball player of year races

ERIC SONDHEIMER
ON HIGH SCHOOLS

With one week remaining in the high school basketball season, let's look at boys' and girls' candidates for player of the year. Of course, it's in the playoffs when individual and team accomplishments count most in determining the best, so there's plenty of time for someone to finish as most valuable player.

Boys' player of the year

Jared McCain of Corona Centennial has led the two-time defending Southern Section Open Division champions to a 23-3 record. The Huskies haven't lost to a team from California. He's scoring, passing and playing great defense.

Trent Perry of Studio City Harvard-Westlake is a junior point guard who has played with so much consistency and passion that he's helped the Wolverines to a 26-1 record and No. 1 ranking.

Marcus Adams Jr. of Harbor City Narbonne has become the most dominant player in the City Section. Whether scoring, rebounding or blocking shots, he's showing his skills.

Andrew Meadow of Santa Clarita West Ranch makes multiple contributions each game for a team that has won 25 of 26 games and could be very tough to beat in the Southern Section Open Division playoffs.

Dusty Stromer of Sherman Oaks Notre Dame has demonstrated unselfishness and a willingness to do whatever it takes to lift the Knights, whether that means shutting down the opposing team's best player or attracting defenders to free up teammates.

There's also Will Smith of Torrance Bishop Montgomery, Brady Dunlap of Harvard-Westlake and Isaiah Elohim of Chatsworth Sierra Canyon.

Girls' player of the year

Juju Watkins of Sierra Canyon is a McDonald's All-American selection and continues to show that she's a once-in-a-generation player with skills to score from anywhere on the court for the unbeaten Trailblazers.

Kennedy Smith of Etiwanda is only a junior but has led the Eagles to a 24-2 record. She's preparing for a long-anticipated matchup against Sierra Canyon in the playoffs.

Skye Belker is a top scorer for L.A. Windward and her continued development has led the Wildcats to an unbeaten record in the Gold Coast League.

Caia Elissaldez of Santa Ana Mater Dei is a senior point guard and has sparked the Monarchs to a 24-2 record.

Chloe Briggs of Ontario Christian is averaging 26.6 points and closing in on the state career scoring record.

There's also Mackenly Randolph of Sierra Canyon, Ava Dominguez of Fullerton Rosary and Mariah Blake of Westchester.

Basketball rewind

Senior guard Kristan Yumul of Oxnard set a Ventura County record by making 11 threes in a win over Oxnard Rio Mesa. She had 37 points.



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

JUJU WATKINS, shown shooting against La Jolla Country Day, has powered unbeaten Sierra Canyon.

Senior Amanda Edwards of San Juan Capistrano San Juan Hills set school records for points and threes by finishing with 36 points and making nine threes in a win over Las Flores Tesoro.

Watkins scored a career-high 45 points and had 16 rebounds and eight assists in Sierra Canyon's win over Mission Hills Bishop Alemany.

Dominguez of Rosary scored 30 points and made seven threes in a win over Santa Margarita.

Gabby Kay Robinson of Centennial set a school record with 12 threes and had 48 points in a win over Norco.

Eastvale Roosevelt junior guard Darnez Slater scored 52 points in a win over Corona Santiago, giving coach Stephen Singleton his 200th victory.

A crowd of 7,856 was at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion to see Notre Dame defeat Sierra Canyon 66-62.

Adams scored 40 points for Narbonne to help the Gauchos clinch the Marine League title with a win over San Pedro.

Jason Crowe Jr. of Lynwood scored 46 points in a win over Firebaugh.

Long Beach Jordan clinched its first Moore League title since 2009.

Mercy Miller of Notre Dame had 39 points at the Nike Extravaganza.

Baseball

For the first time in years, Orange Lutheran is going to need to retool its batting lineup. There are only three returning starters.

But the Lancers have much better pitching depth and the three returning players are standouts.

It starts with third baseman Casey Borba, a Texas commit and the son of coach Eric Borba. He showed power last season and figures to keep progressing.

There's also standout junior center fielder Derek Curiel, a Louisiana State commit, and Evan Miranda, a pitcher who committed to Texas.

Junior Ben Reiland is an outfielder/infielder committed to Oklahoma State.

Among the Lancers' transfers are Vinny Hudson,

a junior pitcher from Chino Hills Ayala, and Gabe Fraser, a junior infielder from Huntington Beach.

Orange Lutheran is expected to join Santa Margarita as the top teams to challenge title favorite San Juan Capistrano JSerra.

Corona coach Andy Wise keeps shaking his head when he sees what sophomore shortstop Billy Carlson can do with his glove and bat.

"He's a freak," Wise said.

Carlson is committed to Vanderbilt and part of a shortstop class in Southern California that is clearly the strongest position for the upcoming season.

All-City pitcher Oscar Lopez looked in midseason form for Woodland Hills El Camino Real in a winter game against Manhattan Beach Mira Costa. He struck out four of the seven batters he faced.

New football coach at JSerra

JSerra might have come up with the football coaching hire of the year when Victor Santa Cruz was recruited to become the Lions' new coach.

The 50-year-old had been defensive coordinator at Hawaii after being Azusa Pacific's all-time winningest coach with an 84-69 record for 14 seasons.

He spent five years coaching high school football in the 1990s at Ocean-side, then left for the college ranks. Now he's ready to take on the high expectations of coaching in the Trinity League.

Transfer football tracker

Unlike in college, there's no official high school transfer portal even though there are hundreds of sports transfers in Southern California each year.

Considering the number of top players moving around, it's time to launch a transfer tracker for Southern California football.

According to CIF rules, players who transfer and change residences, along with their families, are eligible immediately at the new school. If a player trans-

Cavaliers' flag football win over Long Beach Poly a perfect preview of possible CIF sport.

BY LUCA EVANS

They screamed. They cried. They embraced.

As a final pass fell incomplete Sunday afternoon, clinching a 19-18 win over Long Beach Poly and the first-ever championship for Gardena Serra High girls' flag football, the Cavaliers poured out every drop of emotion from their swelling hearts.

Good luck finding a postgame celebration in any sport that contained as much sheer joy.

Some of the girls had trouble catching passes

early in the season, Serra coach Monique Adams said, and they turned into lightning-quick athletes within a few months. Some of them are like Serra's Kaylah Holmes, who grew up roughhousing with her brothers and had been yearning to play football since she was 5 years old.

It was a beautiful preview of the sheer excitement that girls' flag football can bring to California high schools this fall — if passed by the CIF at a state federated council meeting Friday.

"All boys said girls can't do nothing," said Holmes, who caught the eventual game-winning touchdown.

"But we did it. Unde-feated."

Serra emerged victorious from a 16-team field at Redondo Union High in Sunday's championships for the League of Champions, a local girls' flag football league sponsored by the Rams and Chargers in its second season.

In an ironic twist, they took on Long Beach Poly in the final game, the birth of a new Serra-Poly rivalry after years of iconic battles between the programs in tackle football.

Serra football coach Scott Altenberg, who led the girls' team for a couple of months before handing the

reins to Adams — the coach for pro women's tackle team Los Angeles Legends — offered pointers to the Cavaliers from the sideline.

Poly coach Stephen Barbee was coaching the Jackrabbits from the opposite sideline.

"It's like no matter what we do — we could be playing badminton," Altenberg said of the Serra-Poly showdown. "We're made to be rivals."

The Cavaliers trailed at halftime, players huddling, some crying.

"We can't fight with tears in our eyes!" one girl shouted.

They mounted a furious comeback, Holmes, who also plays basketball, securing a short pass in the end zone to put Serra ahead for good with a minute left.

Paula Hart Rodas, president of the Southern Section's council, largely has led the push for girls' flag football to be instituted at the high school level.

In December 2021, she presented Serra with the CIF Southern California regional trophy after a tight win over Poly. And Sunday afternoon, she watched another branch of the rivalry grow.

"How crazy is it, in our first little Super Bowl, that it's Poly-Serra ... that's what it's about," Rodas said.

PRO CALENDAR

	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	31	1	2	3	4
 LAKERS	at New York 4:30 SpecSN		at Indiana 4 SpecSN		at New Orleans 5 SpecSN
 CLIPPERS	at Chicago 5 BSSC		at Milwaukee 7 TNT		at New York 4 BSSC
 KINGS	at Carolina 4 BSW				
 DUCKS	NEXT: MONDAY AT DALLAS, 5:30 P.M. PST, BSW				

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASKETBALL		
4:30 p.m.	Lakers at New York	TV: SpecSN, TNT R: 710, 1330
5 p.m.	Clippers at Chicago	TV: BSSC R: 570
7 p.m.	New Orleans at Denver	TV: TNT
COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
3:30 p.m.	Mississippi State at South Carolina	TV: SEC
4 p.m.	Wake Forest at Duke	TV: ESPN
4 p.m.	Texas A&M at Arkansas	TV: ESPN2
4 p.m.	Virginia Tech at Miami	TV: ESPNU
4 p.m.	Nebraska at Illinois	TV: Big Ten
4 p.m.	Clemson at Boston College	TV: ACC
5 p.m.	Connecticut at DePaul	TV: FS1
5:30 p.m.	Vanderbilt at Alabama	TV: SEC
6 p.m.	Kentucky at Mississippi	TV: ESPN
6 p.m.	Indiana at Maryland	TV: ESPN2
6 p.m.	Loyola Chicago at Dayton	TV: CBSSN
6 p.m.	West Virginia at Texas Christian	TV: ESPNU
6 p.m.	Northwestern at Iowa	TV: Big Ten
7 p.m.	Fresno State at Wyoming	TV: FS1
8 p.m.	San Diego State at Nevada	TV: CBSSN R: 760
COLLEGE GOLF		
1:30 p.m.	Southwestern Invitational, second round	TV: Golf
HOCKEY		
4 p.m.	Kings at Carolina	TV: BSW, NHL R: iHeart
SOCCER		
Noon	Italian Cup, Atalanta at Milan	TV: CBSSN
1 p.m.	Portugal, Benfica at Arouca	TV: GOLTV
TENNIS		
7 a.m.	WTA Lyon and Hua-Hin tournaments, early rounds	TV: Tennis
11 p.m.	WTA Lyon and Hua-Hin tournaments, early rounds	TV: Tennis

NHL STANDINGS

Sixteen teams qualify for the Stanley Cup playoffs. The format is a set bracket that is largely division-based with wild cards. The top three teams in each division will make up the first 12 teams in the playoffs. The remaining four spots will be filled by the next two highest-placed finishers in each conference, based on regular-season record, and regardless of division.

WESTERN CONFERENCE							EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA	Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	29	15	5	63	177	151	Carolina	32	9	8	72	163	131
Vegas	29	18	4	62	160	148	New Jersey	32	13	4	68	171	131
KINGS	28	18	6	62	169	178	NY Rangers	27	14	8	62	157	129
Edmonton	28	18	4	60	187	163	Washington	26	20	6	58	162	149
Calgary	24	17	9	57	160	153	Pittsburgh	24	16	9	57	161	153
Vancouver	20	26	3	43	166	196	NY Islanders	25	22	5	55	148	144
San Jose	15	25	11	41	157	196	Philadelphia	21	21	9	51	142	162
DUCKS	16	29	5	37	125	205	Columbus	15	32	3	33	128	194
Central	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA	Atlantic	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	28	13	10	66	173	133	Boston	38	7	5	81	187	109
Winnipeg	32	19	1	65	167	137	Toronto	31	12	8	70	173	136
Minnesota	27	17	4	58	151	138	Tampa Bay	32	15	1	65	175	141
Colorado	27	18	3	57	151	133	Buffalo	26	19	4	56	185	165
Nashville	24	18	6	54	137	141	Florida	24	22	6	54	178	183
St. Louis	23	25	3	49	156	185	Detroit	21	19	8	50	145	160
Arizona	16	28	6	38	131	177	Ottawa	23	23	3	49	146	155
Chicago	15	29	4	34	118	176	Montreal	20	26	4	44	130	184

Note: Overtime or shootout losses are worth one point.

RESULTS

AT WINNIPEG 4 ST. LOUIS 2	Josh Morrissey and Mark Scheifele each scored twice in the third for the Jets, who honored the late Bobby Hull.
------------------------------	---

TODAY'S GAMES	
KINGS at Carolina, 4 p.m.	Ottawa at Montreal, 4 p.m.
Washington at Columbus, 4 p.m.	

SPORTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023 • LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

Open window for the star duo

Clippers' 12-game run with no back-to-back nights makes Leonard and George available.

By Andrew Greif

When Nicolas Batum mentioned to Clippers teammates last week that he believed they were about to start a five-game winning streak, his reasoning for choosing such a precise number was simple to deduce.

The sixth game in that stretch? It was scheduled to land Sunday, the very next night after Game No. 5. And as anyone who has watched the NBA this season knows, the Clippers again have been a leading example of the increasingly leaguewide strategy of holding out contributors on one night of back-to-back games, valuing rest ahead of the postseason over reps in the regular season.

The result Sunday was as predictable as Batum imagined: While playing several players normally out of coach Tyronn Lue's rotation during the second half — and with Kawhi Leonard, Paul George and Reggie Jackson sidelined for precautionary reasons, and Marcus Morris Sr. and John Wall unavailable because of injuries — the Clippers trailed by 40 points before their five-game winning streak ended in a 122-99 loss in Cleveland.

For a team that had begun to find its stride during the streak that preceded Sunday's "schedule loss," however, the game marked a key milestone: The Clippers aren't scheduled to play on consecutive days again until March 2 and 3.

[See Clippers, B7]



TONIGHT'S GAME

Clippers at Chicago

TV: BSSC, 5 PST



SARAH STIER Getty Images

RUSSELL WESTBROOK, who moved into 10th on the NBA's career assists leaderboard, looks to pass in the Lakers' 121-104 loss.

Lakers turn into sitting ducks

They put up good fight but run out of steam and lose to Nets as James and Davis watch from the bench.

BROOKLYN 121, LAKERS 104

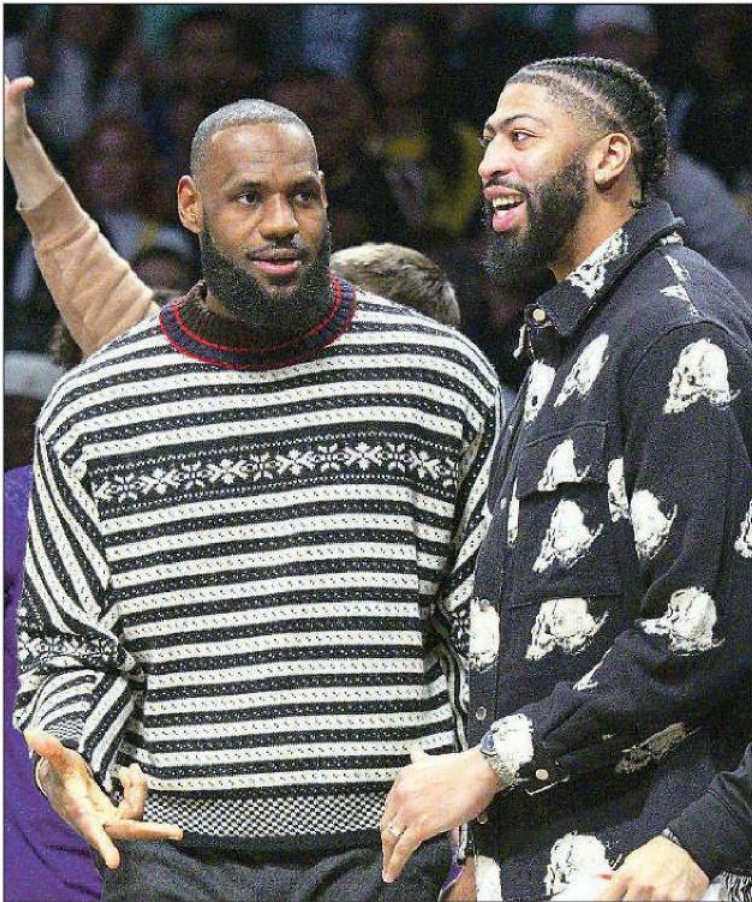
By Dan Woike

NEW YORK — Kyrie Irving, one of the slickest ballhandlers in the NBA, dribbled in front of the Lakers' bench in the first half Monday night at Barclays Center. One of the league's peskiest defenders, Patrick Beverley, tried to mirror him move for move before he eventually was called for a foul.

It was an entertaining moment in the game — and one that ended with LeBron James, sitting on the end of the Lakers' bench, reaching his hands into a box of popcorn and pulling out a few pieces.

Fresh off a game the Lakers believed they should have won in Boston, they played one they certainly knew they could lose, with forward Anthony Davis sitting out the front end of a back-to-back set and James on the bench because of a persistent sore left foot.

Though they continued to show teams around the NBA that they're not short on fight, with Davis and James on the bench, the



COREY SIPKIN Associated Press

LeBRON JAMES (foot) and Anthony Davis (rest) sat out versus the Nets as the Lakers fell to 0-2 on their East Coast trip.



TONIGHT'S GAME

Lakers at New York

TV: SpecSN, 4:30 PST

Lakers were too short on talent to win — even against a Brooklyn team without All-Star Kevin Durant and point guard Ben Simmons.

The Lakers lost to the Nets 121-104 despite leading by as many as seven in the second half. Thomas Bryant scored 18 points, and Russell Westbrook had 17 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

Guard Troy Brown Jr. grabbed a career-high 17 rebounds with James and Davis sitting out.

"It's hard," Brown said. "We play in a league where the game waits for nobody."

It didn't wait for the Lakers to get to full strength Monday.

Irving scored 26 to lead the Nets past the Lakers (23-28), another loss in a game in which they did enough to produce positive feelings and showed enough weakness that it's hard to gauge just what path this team is on.

[See Lakers, B7]

Chargers will hire offensive assistant

Former Cowboys coach Moore chosen as coordinator to replace Lombardi.

By Jeff Miller

Moving quickly, the Chargers are hiring Kellen Moore as their offensive coordinator.

Moore, 34, spent five seasons coaching in Dallas and three as the Cowboys' backup quarterback before he and the team parted ways Sunday in what was termed a mutual decision.

He replaces Joe Lombardi, who had the job for two years before being fired following the Chargers' AFC wild-card playoff loss at Jacksonville.

The Chargers announced that they agreed to terms with Moore on Monday in a late-morning news release, about 15 hours after the Cowboys let him go.

A former quarterback at [See Chargers, B8]



MITCHELL LEFF Getty Images

EAGLES COACH Nick Sirianni, left, and Chiefs coach Andy Reid share a laugh before the teams' last meeting, a 42-30 road win for Kansas City on Oct. 3, 2021.

Super Bowl has a Reid reunion, brothers battle

Chiefs coach will try to make sure Eagles, his old team, don't win a 'Philly thing' ring.

SAM FARMER ON THE NFL

The slogan is on T-shirts and hats, banners and balloons.

"It's a Philly thing." That's the cryptic playoff mantra for these Philadelphia Eagles, and it's working pretty well so far — the team is heading to its second Super Bowl in six seasons, this time against the Kansas City Chiefs.

"This is something you dream about your whole life," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said in the aftermath of a 31-7 victory over San Francisco in the NFC championship game Sunday. "Like I said to the guys: We've all been dreaming about it, whether you were dreaming about it when you were 2, 10, 14, 18 or when you



SUPER BOWL LVIII

Kansas City vs. Philadelphia

At Glendale, Ariz.
Feb. 12, 3:30 p.m.
TV: Channel 11

got in the NFL."

Super Bowl LVIII on Feb. 12 in Glendale, Ariz., reunites Chiefs coach Andy Reid and the Philadelphia franchise he coached for 14 seasons.

The last time these teams played each other was Oct. 3, 2021, when Kansas City won 42-30 in Philadelphia with Patrick Mahomes throwing five touchdown passes.

It was a landmark win for Reid, his 100th with the Chiefs. He therefore became the first NFL coach to win at least 100 games apiece with two franchises, having won

[See Farmer, B8]

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR



Photographs from Elliott Hundley / Regen Projects

“CHANGELING,” from Elliott Hundley’s exhibition at Regen Projects, incorporates oil, encaustic, photographs and collage.

ART REVIEW

Attentive to needs

For several harried afternoons now, I’ve sought solace in Elliott Hundley’s latest exhibition. I can’t remember the last time I had this much *fun* looking at painting, assemblage, ceramics, collage, etc.

The show at Regen Projects in Hollywood is part retrospective and part departure: Hundley’s previous exhibitions have nearly always taken as their starting point a single text or work of literature, often a classical or modern play, exploded and suspended in riotous mixed-media works with contemporary references. The collage elements begin as photo sessions where the artist’s friends and family act out parts of the play under his summary and direction. They don’t necessarily read the play themselves, so this part is kind of like an Oulipian game of telephone-meets-dress-up, with neon lights and wearing cheeky handmade costumes, or often nothing at all. They’re printed and cut out like paper dolls.

“Echo” is a series of different chambers courting different kinds of attention. Entering the gallery you’re greeted first thing by “Her House Smoldering”

A retrospective of Elliott Hundley’s work knows that viewers want to have fun.

By **CHRISTINA CATHERINE MARTINEZ**



“HER House Smoldering” (2011) is like a gate — of foam and bamboo.

(2011), a ruin-like sculpture made of foam cinder blocks held aloft with bamboo scaffolding and crawling with pins — it’s a gate, an invitation to Hundley’s histories and processes and spaces of play. The central galleries are meant to echo the artist’s Chinatown studio but feel like a museum’s craft and anthropology departments exploded in the blender. The cool lavender of the foam walls reminds me of the coloring of more sober, historical, conservative art spaces — I’m thinking of the Huntington or the Norton Simon, anywhere old paintings tend to hang on dusty or jewel-toned walls, signifying history or depth.

Speaking of which, I don’t like all this talk of the helplessly postmodern flattening affect of collage. Hundley does away with that myopic view right quick, mixing cutouts of his own photography subjects along with the obligatory ads and ephemera, adding the heat of subjective association in lieu of total observational detachment. There is a literal depth too. Get up close and you’ll see how he arranges the individual elements of his pinned collages, most of them only a few centimeters in diam. [See Hundley, E6]

Chris Licht’s CNN moves

The network boss talks about restoring trust and why he deleted his Twitter.

By **STEPHEN BATTAGLIO**

Slumping ratings, cost-cutting, show cancellations and — comedy?

The path of CNN has been a bit rocky since it became part of Warner Bros. Discovery last year and the parent company’s chief executive, David Zaslav, picked veteran news and late-night TV producer Chris Licht to run the network that created the cable news business nearly 43 years ago.

CNN has cut personnel amid broader cost-cutting efforts at the parent company. But Licht, 51, has been deliberate in his programming moves. He launched “CNN This Morning” with Don Lemon, Poppy Harlow and Kaitlan Collins, which is starting slowly in the ratings but growing since it began simulcasting on HLN. He’s announced an upcoming revamp of CNN’s daytime lineup, moving it away from the traditional behind-the-desk news reading and using a trio of anchors.

Licht has yet to take a big swing in prime time — the network has never replaced host Chris Cuomo, who was fired in December 2021 — although it’s likely a comedian will be part of the equation. (Fox News is drawing more than 2 million viewers a night with a comedy-driven talk show, “Gutfeld!”) CNN will test those waters starting this Friday with “Overtime.” The extension of HBO’s topical comedy talk show “Real Time With Bill Maher” will be shown on [See Licht, E6]

Key to all of ‘Last of Us’

New episode of HBO series changes Bill and Frank’s story from the game. Here’s why.

By **TRACY BROWN**

This story contains spoilers for Episode 3 of HBO’s “The Last of Us” and corresponding moments from the 2013 video game.

The third episode of “The Last of Us” takes viewers back to the beginning of the world’s fungal apocalypse.

Sunday’s installment, the most intimate of the series so far, introduced audiences to Bill (Nick Offerman), a gun-toting, paranoid, self-described survivalist who appears to have been one of the few people prepared to live in the world after the mysterious mutant cordyceps outbreak. Bill’s mistrust of the government meant that instead of being rounded up with the other residents of his town, he stayed behind to build a fortified base around his home, ready to live out the rest of his days blissfully alone. [See ‘Last of Us,’ E2]

A creator of classics

The singer, piano player and Motown legend Barrett Strong dies at 81. **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E4**

An extraordinary requiem for a rapper

Thes One’s ‘Farewell, My Friend’ honors his People Under the Stairs partner.

By **OLIVER WANG**

For 20 years, the Los Angeles hip-hop duo People Under the Stairs forged a career as independent artists that far exceeded anyone’s expectations, let alone its two members, Double K (Michael Turner) and Thes One (Christopher Portugal). Twelve albums, twice as many singles, hundreds of shows, and a fanbase that included everyone from the late Mac Miller and actor Bill Paxton to the writers on “The Simpsons.” Sitting inside the custom sound studio he built within the garage of his family’s home in the South Bay, Thes smiles wryly: “Our career arc was comically unbelievable.”

However, nothing is less hip in hip-hop than trying to [See Hip-hop, E3]



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

CHRISTOPHER PORTUGAL, known as Thes One, was one half of the rap duo People Under the Stairs.



LUKE TENNIE, left, and Jason Segel in “Shrinking,” about a therapist who says what he really thinks.

‘Shrinking,’ from the therapist’s chair

Actual mental health professionals weigh in on the brutal honesty used in the show.

By ERIN QUALEY

Everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about. And yes, that includes your therapist.

The new Apple TV+ series “Shrinking” focuses on Jimmy (Jason Segel), a recently widowed therapist who has been stuck in the throes of grief for over a year. On the first day we follow Jimmy into work, he’s hung over and frazzled. He meets

with a parade of clients presenting with a variety of mundane problems; we get the sense that he has heard these same complaints on a loop from these people for a long time. And he can’t take it anymore. During a session with a long-term client named Grace (Heidi Gardner), Jimmy’s frustration bubbles up and he shouts the quiet part out loud. He demands that Grace leave her husband or he’s not going to work with her anymore. To his delight and surprise, she agrees.

This moment spurs Jimmy to change his entire approach to therapy. To this point, it feels like he’s been phoning it in by employing

‘Shrinking’

Where: Apple TV+
When: Any time
Rating: TV-MA (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 17 with advisories for violence and coarse language)

knowing head nods and stereotypical sayings such as “How does that make you feel?” Now, instead of engaging with clients on autopilot, Jimmy decides to let his id go wild. He starts to be radically honest in sessions, disclosing his personal opinions freely and often, and surpris-

ing clients by pulling them out of sessions and bringing them to locations like a coffee shop and an MMA sparing gym. Jimmy’s cantankerous-but-lovable mentor Paul (Harrison Ford) cautions against using these tactics with clients, claiming that it will “rob them of their autonomy.”

Therapy on TV is always heightened for the sake of entertainment, and “Shrinking” is no exception. But Jimmy’s newfound policy of radical honesty is not in itself that uncommon in the therapeutic world. Melissa Schleier, a licensed clinical social worker practicing in Connecticut, considers sharing honest observations with clients “part of the job.” However, she adds, “there are so many things you have to look at — the person’s personality, their insightfulness, your relationship with the client — for anything you say to be worth it in therapy.”

Before engaging in brutal honesty, a responsible therapist needs to gauge several

factors, says Dr. Chandler Chang, clinical psychologist and chief executive of Therapy Lab: “I think you have to consider the person’s motivation for change as well as the rapport between the therapist and the client. We can’t work together unless there’s trust and rapport. If you’re going to come at the client too directly too soon, then you rupture that trust and impair the rapport, and you’re done.”

In contrast to Jimmy’s impulsive disclosure to Grace and his last-minute decisions to take clients out into the world for part of their sessions, practicing quality therapy requires mindfulness, planning and forethought.

“Therapy and psychology are based in science, but part of it is doing a dance between being mindful of the rapport and taking care of it. Then, sometimes, the right directness lands perfectly and it’s just what the client needs,” Chang says. But, Chang cautions, “You have to be mindful of when you are providing a radically genuine observation versus advice. We have to be aware not to give advice because it changes the power dynamic.”

Schleier and Chang both believe that eliciting change takes a bit more than just blurting out directives. “It’s not so much about when to be honest with a client,” Schleier says. “It’s more about being skillful in helping them get it.”

For example, delicate phrasing might be necessary when raising a thorny truth, according to Chang. “If you’re timing it right and if you preface it as ‘I don’t know how this is going to land, but I’m going to say something that might be a surprise or even upsetting to you ... this is what I see’ it can be super impactful,” he says. “In some ways, that is why people are coming to therapy. [They’re] looking for some objectivity on some situation. But it’s up to the therapist to gauge ‘How much objectivity do I share on this particular day?’ ”

While Jimmy does seem to have the best of intentions — he ostensibly cares about

his clients and wants to see them improve — he’s also working through his own issues. And it’s clear that he isn’t fully thinking things through before suggesting huge changes in his clients’ lives. Schleier notes that she keeps a “checklist” in her head when sharing with clients, and asks herself, “Is the therapy moving without me saying this? Is this serving me or is this serving the client?” Chang echoes the sentiment: “If your interaction with your clients is self-serving in any way or if it’s a personal emotional regulation strategy, remember that it always has to be in the best interest of the client.”

If we look closely at Jimmy’s situation, much of his radical new approach to therapy is, in fact, serving his own interests. As he makes these changes in his professional life, he seems to be feeling better, shifting away from his grief-stricken emotional paralysis and recommitting himself to his work and his family, but we soon find out that his advice is backfiring all over the place. Of course it is. Instead of guiding his clients to conclusions, he’s trying to make change happen through sheer force of will. This, unsurprisingly, doesn’t work in therapy.

“We’re not in the advice business; we’re in the business of helping people learn how to think and learn how to deal with their own problems,” Schleier says. “We’re trying to put them in a place where they don’t need us. If we’re just standing there all the time, telling them what to do directly like a parent would, how are they going to be able to evolve to the next step?”

For all his faults as a therapist, Jimmy is only human. And, in the context of “Shrinking” — a comedy that wears its heart on its sleeve — it’s fun to watch him flail around and try to help his clients in a good-natured, if misguided, way. And, if all the best therapists have their own therapists (see: “The Patient,” “In Treatment,” “Ted Lasso”), perhaps we can hope to see Jimmy on the other side of the couch sometime soon.

Key to ‘Last of Us’

[‘Last of Us,’ from E1]

Except he doesn’t end up alone. A few years after the outbreak, a weary traveler named Frank (Murray Bartlett) is caught in one of Bill’s traps. Against his better judgment, Bill lets Frank into his compound for what is intended to be a momentary respite. The episode goes on to detail how the two men fall in love and spend the rest of their lives together.

For “The Last of Us” co-creator and executive producer Craig Mazin, Bill and Frank were an opportunity to show that even in a series based on a video game, death doesn’t mean failure.

“They reach an end on their own terms,” Mazin said during a recent video call. “And like Bill says, ‘I’m old, I’m satisfied, and you were my purpose.’ That feels like a victory to me.”

But more important, their relationship shows the audience, as well as a reluctant Joel (Pedro Pascal), that even in this terrifying, dangerous world, love and happiness are not only attainable but also worth it. Bill and Frank’s story is integral to the series and completely original from the Bill and Frank story told in “The Last of Us” video game.

“For people who played the game and loved the game, this is pretty much all entirely new,” said Mazin. “The story of Bill and Frank and the letter that Bill leaves behind [in the show] is such a huge part of why Joel decides he’s going to keep going [on this journey] with Ellie ... Their relationship ultimately becomes kind of the skeleton key to unlock all of this show, as far as I’m concerned.”

Bill and Frank’s story is far more tragic in the game. Much like in the show, Joel and Ellie seek out Bill because they need a vehicle for their cross-country journey. They encounter Bill alive, and the player must work together with him to make it across town to get necessary equipment. Along the way, Bill mentions a former “partner” named Frank before the group discovers a



BILL (Nick Offerman, left) and Frank (Murray Bartlett) share a moment in “The Last of Us.” Their story “is about hope,” said Peter Hoar, episode’s director.

body and learns that Frank has hanged himself after being bitten by the infected. Some optional digging around can lead to the player finding a letter Frank has left for Bill, telling him, “I hated your guts.”

Neil Druckmann, the series co-creator and executive producer who also wrote the original game,

credits the initial idea of Bill to “The Last of Us” game director Bruce Straley. The idea behind Bill, Druckmann said, was to introduce “someone that lives on their own” who is “kind of kooky, because what are you surviving for at that point?”

According to Druckmann, Bill’s backstory involving a previous partner was something that was developed over the course of the game’s production.

Although he had written Bill and Frank’s relationship to be romantic — because that would be a greater loss — Druckmann left it up to Bill’s actor, W. Earl Brown, to interpret whether the character was gay. And he did. (As Druckmann himself says in the game’s commentary, Bill’s sexuality and the nature of Bill and Frank’s “partnership” are never explicitly mentioned in the game. But it can be inferred by a magazine Ellie finds and shows Joel.)

According to Straley, the reason for Bill’s existence in the game is that he’s “a person who had genuine feelings for another human being in that world, and is having a reaction to that [relationship ending]. That reaction is being projected onto Joel and Ellie’s relationship.”

While Bill vocalizes one warning — that getting close to someone is how you get killed in the world of the game — his purpose is to serve as the opposite. Bill is a glimpse of the kind of person Joel could become if he continues to avoid getting close to others: eccentric, bitter and alone.

‘The Last of Us’

Where: HBO
When: Sunday, 9 p.m.
Streaming: HBO Max, anytime
Rating: TV-MA (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 17)

is clear.

“I think in a show like this, where the world around our characters is constantly pressuring them ... there is the tendency for endings to be tragic and violent and abrupt and too soon,” said Mazin. “And I thought it was important to show how a relationship could endure and then conclude in a natural way. Because death is a perfectly natural thing to do.”

“The whole thing is about hope and humanity being able to construct hope and believe hope,” said Peter Hoar, the episode’s director. “The reason we believe in anything is because we think it’s going to help us. Faith, or otherwise, it’s something that you construct around you to go, ‘Yeah, see, it’s worth it.’ For that to be a gay love story, an LGBTQ love story, was just the icing on the cake.”

Although there have been rumblings that Episode 3 could be divisive among existing “Last of Us” fans, Hoar believes they deserve more credit.

“They know why they like ‘The Last of Us,’” said Hoar. “Yes, the game play was good, but they liked ‘The Last of Us’ because of how it made them feel. I think that’s what we do in Episode 3. We make you feel it.”

Ultimately, the tragedy of Episode 3 is not how Bill and Frank have chosen to die together, but the message Bill has left for Joel in a letter. Because Bill saw a kindred spirit in Joel as someone who protects those they love, he bequeaths everything he owns to Joel so he can keep Tess safe.

“Bill doesn’t know that Joel has failed,” said Mazin. “Not once, mind you, but twice. Joel has failed to keep his daughter alive. He’s failed to keep Tess alive. And now, his only chance to be the person that Bill says he is, is to keep this kid [Ellie] alive.”

Druckmann, for his part, is pleased that the game inspired the emotional story told in Episode 3.

“I feel like this sequence is really beautiful, and it’s really beautiful for the show in a way that we couldn’t do in the game,” said Druckmann. “Even though that episode deviates quite a bit from the game, and the fate of the character is different from the game. It’s so beautiful and so moving that I think it’s worth it.”

Times game critic Todd Martens contributed to this story.

LAEMMLE™ Info Line 310.478.3836		NOT AFRAID OF SUBTITLES www.LAEMMLE.com	
ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A. THE MAN IN THE BASEMENT 1:00 4:00 7:00 ONE FINE MORNING R 1:10 4:10 7:10 LIVING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20 MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica LIFE UPSIDE DOWN 1:30 7:20 MAYBE I DO PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:30 THE SON PG-13 4:15 PM CHILDREN OF THE MIST 1:00 PM THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 6:45 EO 4:30 PM THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN R 1:10 7:00 TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 6:50 PM TAR R 1:00 4:00 6:45 ARGENTINA, 1985 R THE QUIET EPIDEMIC 4:20 PM	TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino THE MAN IN THE BASEMENT 4:00 PM MAYBE I DO PG-13 1:30 7:20 THE SON PG-13 4:00 PM A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:10 LIVING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:30 THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 6:55 THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN R 4:15 PM TAR R 12:55 6:50 NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita MAYBE I DO PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30 MISSING PG-13 1:20 4:10 7:20 A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:10 4:20 7:00 LIVING PG-13 1:10 4:00 7:00 PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 1:10 4:20 7:10 AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER PG-13 1:20 6:30 THE WHALE R 4:20 PM THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 PM THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN R 7:10 PM	GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale CONDOR'S NEST R 4:30 PM INFINITY POOL R 1:00 4:00 7:00 KOMPROMAT SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 4:10 PM CORSAGE SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 4:20 PM LIVING PG-13 1:30 7:20 NO BEARS SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 7:10 PM CHILDREN OF THE MIST SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 1:00 PM ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED 1:00 PM EO SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 7:30 PM TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 4:00 PM CAIRO CONSPIRACY SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 1:10 7:10	NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood INFINITY POOL R 1:10 4:00 7:00 IN FROM THE SIDE 4:00 PM NOSTALGIA 7:20 PM WOMEN TALKING PG-13 1:20 4:30 7:30 M3GAN PG-13 1:20 4:30 7:30 LIVING PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30 THE WHALE R 1:00 7:20 THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 6:55 TAR R 3:50 PM FREE SKATE 1:10 PM PETIT MAL 4:10 PM CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10 LIVING PG-13 1:20 4:10 7:30 PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 1:30 4:30 7:10 CHILDREN OF THE MIST 1:00 PM THE WHALE R 7:20 PM THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 7:00 THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN R 4:20 PM TAR R 4:00 PM
BARGAIN IN () CLOSED CAPTION NON-STANDARD PRICING FOR 1/31/2023 ONLY			

BARRETT STRONG, 1941 – 2023

Co-writer of a string of Motown classics

He helped create ‘Money (That’s What I Want),’ ‘Grapevine,’ ‘War’ and other hits.

By HILLEL ITALIE

NEW YORK — Barrett Strong, one of Motown’s founding artists and most gifted songwriters, who sang lead on the company’s breakthrough single, “Money (That’s What I Want),” and later collaborated with Norman Whitfield on such classics as “I Heard It Through the Grapevine,” “War” and “Papa Was a Rollin’ Stone,” has died. He was 81.

His death was announced Sunday on social media by the Motown Museum, which did not immediately provide further details.

“Barrett was not only a great singer and piano player, but he, along with his writing partner Norman Whitfield, created an incredible body of work,” Motown founder Berry Gordy said in a statement.

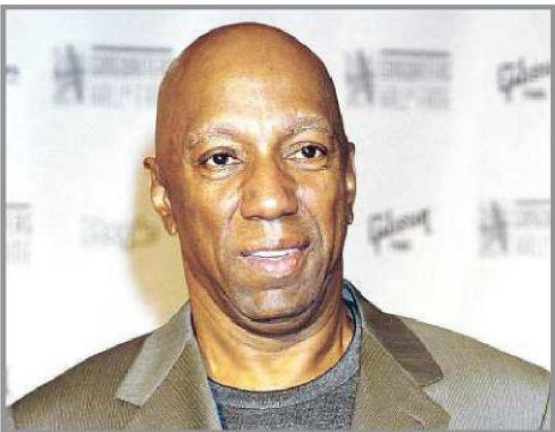
Strong had yet to turn 20 when he agreed to let his friend Gordy, in the early days of building a recording

empire in Detroit, manage him and release his music. Within a year, he was a part of history as the piano player and vocalist for “Money,” a million-seller released early in 1960 and Motown’s first major hit.

Strong never again approached the success of “Money” on his own, and decades later fought for acknowledgment that he helped write it. But with Whitfield, he formed a productive and eclectic songwriting team.

While Gordy’s “Sound of Young America” was criticized for being too slick and repetitive, the Whitfield-Strong team turned out hard-hitting and topical works, along with such timeless ballads as “I Wish It Would Rain” and “Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me).” With “I Heard It Through the Grapevine,” they provided an up-tempo, call-and-response hit for Gladys Knight and the Pips and a dark, hypnotic ballad for Marvin Gaye, his 1968 version becoming one of Motown’s all-time sellers.

As Motown became more politically conscious late in the decade, Whitfield-Strong turned out “Cloud Nine” and “Psychedelic



LOUIS LANZANO Associated Press

“AN INCREDIBLE BODY OF WORK”
Barrett Strong and Norman Whitfield wrote songs that shaped and transcended Motown.

Shack” for the Temptations and for Edwin Starr the protest anthem “War” and its widely quoted refrain, “War! What is it good for? Absolutely ... nothing!”

“With ‘War,’ I had a cousin who was a paratrooper that got hurt pretty bad in Vietnam,” Strong told L.A. Weekly in 1999. “I also knew a guy who used to sing with [Motown songwriter] Lamont Dozier that got hit by shrapnel and was crippled for life. You talk about these things with your families

when you’re sitting at home, and it inspires you to say something about it.”

Whitfield-Strong’s other hits, mostly for the Temptations, included “I Can’t Get Next to You,” “That’s the Way Love Is” and the Grammy-winning chart-topper “Papa Was a Rollin’ Stone” (sometimes rendered as “Papa Was a Rolling Stone”). Artists covering their songs included the Rolling Stones (“Just My Imagination”), Aretha Franklin (“I Wish It Would

Rain”), Bruce Springsteen (“War”) and Al Green (“I Can’t Get Next to You”).

Strong spent part of the 1960s recording for other labels, left Motown again in the early 1970s and made a handful of solo albums, including “Stronghold” and “Love Is You.” In 2004, he was voted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, which cited him as “a pivotal figure in Motown’s formative years.”

Whitfield died in 2008.

The music of Strong and other Motown writers was later featured in the Broadway hit “Ain’t Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations.”

Strong was born in West Point, Miss., and moved to Detroit a few years later. He was a self-taught musician who learned piano without needing lessons and, with his sisters, formed a local gospel group, the Strong Singers. In his teens, he got to know such artists as Franklin, Smokey Robinson and Gordy, who was impressed with his writing and piano playing.

“Money,” with its opening shout, “The best things in life are free / But you can give them to the birds and bees,” would, ironically, lead to a fight over money.

Strong was initially listed among the writers, and he often spoke of coming up with the pounding piano riff while jamming on Ray Charles’ “What’d I Say” in the studio. But only decades later would he learn that Motown had since removed his name from the credits, costing him royalties for a popular standard covered by the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and many others.

Strong’s legal argument was weakened because he had taken so long to ask for his name to be reinstated. (Gordy is one of the song’s credited writers, and his lawyers said that Strong’s name appeared only because of a clerical error).

“Songs outlive people,” Strong told the New York Times in 2013. “The real reason Motown worked was the publishing. The records were just a vehicle to get the songs out there to the public.

“The real money is in the publishing, and if you have publishing, then hang on to it. That’s what it’s all about. If you give it away, you’re giving away your life, your legacy. Once you’re gone, those songs will still be playing.”

Italie writes for the Associated Press.

A rap ‘poem’ tribute

[**Hip-hop**, from E1] navigate being a middle-aged rapper, and by early 2019, the pair decided it was time to retire on their own terms, releasing one final album, “Sincerely, The P.” Both men were still in their early 40s, happy to get off the tour treadmill to spend more time at home. Double K was recording new tracks while also contemplating a return to DJing parties and events. Thes had young children with whom he wanted to spend more time. Neither wrote off the possibility of still making music together, but barely two years later, the unthinkable happened.

On Jan. 30, 2021, Double K died in his sleep at his South-Central home. He was only 43, leaving behind his wife of 10 years, Etheldra; his mom, Tanya; and three siblings. Officially, his cause of death was alcohol poisoning, but while years of touring had taken its toll on both men’s bodies, nobody, not even Double K, knew how poor his health had become. “His death was a shock, even to him, I guarantee,” says Thes.

Understandably, his friend’s passing left Thes bereft. He locked up that home studio where the two men had spent countless hours over the years. “It was just too heavy to be in the room,” he explains. Left behind was a solo project Thes had started two years before, a series of compositions inspired by songs beloved by both men, especially Double K. That included nods to obscure yacht rock singles, underground disco jams and Double K’s absolute favorite: Parliament-Funkadelic. In his mourning though, Thes couldn’t bring himself to continue working on the project, citing survivor’s guilt: “It feels like you’re disrespecting the loss by just moving on with your life.”

It took Thes nearly a year to muster the will to reopen the studio, in part driven by other confrontations with mortality, including a near-fatal bout with COVID-19 in fall 2021 that coincided with his father’s cancer diagnosis (he’s currently in remission). For years, the People Under the Stairs, or PUTS, partners watched as artists had their catalogs exploited posthumously. After Detroit producer/rapper J Dilla died in 2006, Thes and Double K were dismayed to see a flood of Dilla’s unreleased tracks become packaged and circulated under dubious circumstances. When Thes realized his studio was filled with unfinished recordings by both him and Double K, a fear hit him: “I didn’t want this stuff sitting on a hard drive to be found and inaccurately pieced together.” That meant he’d have to complete them while he was still here.



RICHARD MARTIN-ROBERTS Redferns via Getty Images

DOUBLE K onstage at the Kazimier in Liverpool, England, in 2015. He decided to retire in 2019.



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

ALBUM tributes aren’t as common in rap music as in other genres. Still, many pay homage to colleagues.

By chance, at the same time, an old friend and long-time PUTS collaborator, keyboardist Kat O1O (Kat Ouano Mobley), got in touch to say she was coming to town from Hawaii. Kat had played on all the original 2019 sessions and with her coming back to L.A., Thes not only realized he had an opportunity to resume working on the project but something else clicked for him. “It all became so clear,” he remembers. “We’re gonna finish it for Mike, we’re gonna do it for him.” Thes One’s album, which comes out this week — the second anniversary of Double K’s passing — is fittingly entitled “Farewell, My Friend.”

Hip-hop artists have long paid homage to fallen colleagues — thanks to the sobering number of them who have been killed or died long before their time — but entire tribute albums aren’t as common in rap music as in other genres. The ones that do exist usually fall into one of two categories. There are albums that exhume and repurpose previously recorded songs, like “The King & I” (2017), Faith Evans’ “duet” album with her late husband, the Notorious B.I.G., released 20 years after his shooting death in 1997. Then there are those assembled from vault material, like two (and counting) Pop Smoke albums, “Shoot for the Stars, Aim for the Moon” and “Faith,” which his manager and label put together from unfinished tracks after he was killed in 2020. Unsurprisingly, the Pop Smoke LPs

earned the ire of some fans and reviewers who said it made “avaricious creative decisions” as part of an “obvious cash grab.” “Farewell, My Friend” conspicuously avoids any of these associations.

“A lot of people think this is going to be a vocal record, like me rapping about Mike or God forbid, using unreleased vocal takes from him,” says Thes, adding that when he was alive, “Mike was absolutely adamant he didn’t want any type of posthumous or vault stuff released.” While “Farewell, My Friend” includes the voices of both men, they are excerpts from interviews: no rhymes.

THE CONCEPT

Instead, the album is primarily eight instrumental songs that form a “tone poem,” a reference to symphonic compositions like George Gershwin’s “An American in Paris” or Richard Strauss’ “Also Sprach Zarathustra” that use long, narrative-like movements of changing moods and motifs. In the case of “Farewell, My Friend,” Thes purposefully conceived and sequenced the album “to tell the story of our life together,” from their early friendship, through their PUTS years, ending with Double K’s death and imagined afterlife. The album serves as an elegy, mixtape and soundtrack, all in one.

Though each track nods to older songs that held special meaning for the two of them, the compositions are neither conventional covers

nor remixes. Sonically, they’re homages to their original source material while emotionally, they honor those pivotal moments of his and Double K’s lives. Album opener “Young Mike and Chris Floating Free” recaptures the moment the men first met by riffing on Level 42’s 1981 funk tune, “Starchild,” a single the two bonded over when they were digging for samples in local L.A. record stores back in the mid-’90s. “We were learning about music, learning how to dig,” Thes calls. “Mike thought this was some Bootsy [Collins] thing because it said ‘Starchild’ on it and he got home and was like ‘what the hell is this?’ Rookie mistake, but we ended up loving it.”

Several tracks later, “Mike and Chris Leave for Their First Tour” fast forwards to 1999 when PUTS performed in Japan for the first time. “That tour was monumental for us,” Thes says. “We were chasing that high for the rest of our lives.” His composition references one of the memorable musical discoveries they made while there, “It Ain’t No Big Thing,” a 1976 single produced by the legendary disco producer Patrick Adams.

“Farewell, My Friend’s” b-side is more somber. A short interlude titled “Prelude to Pain” leads into “The Bell Tolls for People Under the Stairs,” a melancholy reworking of “Love Theme From Spartacus” to mark the group’s decision to disband.

Then there’s the beautiful, devastating “Midnight January 30th, The Mothership Comes for Mike.” The first part is based on a quirky Tiny Tim cover of Hal David/Baruch Bacharach’s “What the World Needs Now,” but near the end, Thes abruptly shifts to a hissy recording from a video copy of Parliament-Funkadelic’s 1978 Flashlight tour. He shares, “It was [Double K’s] favorite concert and he would put it on to go to sleep. This was most likely the VHS tape that was playing that night he died in his sleep.” In the recording we hear George Clinton’s mothership land onstage, ac-

companied by the five-note theme from “Close Encounters of the Third Kind.” You realize a beat later, it’s meant to mark the moment of Double K’s transition.

HOW IT BEGAN

“Farewell, My Friend” is a coda on a creative partnership that winds its way back to 1996, when both men were still in high school; Double K at Hamilton, Thes a few miles away at Loyola. A chance meeting at Martin’s Records on Pico led to them listening to each other’s beat tapes in the front seat of a friend’s 1988 Corolla. Two years later, they began releasing records as People Under the Stairs. The name “felt funny and perfect,” says Thes. “We were not the cool kids.”

The duo joined a growing wave of local, independently minded rap artists that included the Freestyle Fellowship, Jurassic 5, Dilated Peoples and Madlib. Myka 9 of the Freestyle Fellowship, a group that PUTS revered as “absolute gods” in Thes’ words, describes PUTS as “true pillars in the musical community” thanks to the “weight and integrity” of their performances; their approach to song craft was “high art yet low key.”

DJ Rhettmatic, of the long-standing turntable crew Beat Junkies, sees them through a different dichotomy, as “the underdogs of the underground hip-hop scene even though they have an international following,” a nod to how the group built a global fanbase despite lacking major label marketing and distribution muscle. Instead, PUTS handled all their own songwriting and production, navigated getting their records to retailers, and booked and managed their own tours. That DIY-ness came at a cost though, with hometown record stores and radio shows often shunning their releases. “All the gatekeepers tried to write us off,” Thes says. But “our outcastness defined us.”

Even as he and Double K agreed to sunset PUTS, it opened up new opportunities for Thes to work on his musical craft. For over 20

years, Thes had perfected a knack for finding samples and transforming them into hip-hop tracks. As a solo artist, the project that became “Farewell, My Friend” began as a challenge to himself to go further. “I wanted to see if I was capable of becoming a producer in the more traditional sense,” he says, nodding toward inspirations like Brian Wilson and David Axelrod, whose studio wizardry transformed the feel and texture of songs, albums, even entire musical styles.

Thes sought out storied studios around the Southland like 4th Street Recording in Santa Monica and 64 Sound in Highland Park, the latter being the last studio PUTS ever recorded in. Especially because he wanted to have Kat O1O play on acoustic pianos, he had learned from other engineers about how different spaces color the sound of instruments in unique ways. “There are newer studios that have these grand pianos and they sound like they look — shiny and big — but that’s not the sound we wanted,” he says. Instead, he went to 4th Street Recording partly because he knew “their piano had a lot of history to it.”

Even after Double K’s death, Thes and his collaborators felt their friend was still in the room with them. Kat O1O remembers how in some of the 2022 sessions, the instruments they were using would act erratically, sounding “horrible” one moment and then, as if by magic, would switch to “sounding really cool. We were like, ‘oh, that was Mikey.’ You’re here with us, we can feel you.”

As evinced by the four years it took to bring the album to fruition, “Farewell, My Friend” wasn’t easy to complete. “You know the closure that comes from releasing it and sharing it with the world? I wasn’t ready for any of that,” admits Thes. It took an intervention from his wife, Ritu, to push him forward. “It wasn’t just a traditional album that he was working on. It was this catharsis he needed,” she says, recalling how she told Thes, “you can wallow in despair or you can channel your energy into this project that will be healing for you and be a celebration of Mike.”

Fittingly, with the project finally done, Thes has found himself thinking about music and mourning in ways he’s heard others discuss but until now hadn’t experienced as personally.

“When we were on the road, people would come up to us and say, ‘your song got me through my father’s bout with cancer’ or whatever, but until you’re that person who’s using music to cope, that’s where you really feel how powerful it can be,” he says. “There might be other people, especially coming out of the pandemic, who are still struggling with the grief that a lot of people have dealt with ... this may speak to them too. Just the sheer possibility of that makes me really happy.”

Oliver Wang is a Los Angeles-based writer and sociology professor at Cal State Long Beach.

COMICS

SUDOKU

95

2

4

7

234

5

84

267

9

45

36

5

34

1

3

1

7

26

Level: Gentle

5

6

5

2

4

2

1

6

3

1

Level: Gentle

689124357

517386924

234579168

825437619

971862543

463951872

152798436

748613295

996245781

316254

542631

135426

624513

451362

263145

Solutions to Monday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

248X

9+

1-

3+

2÷

3

EASY

Trademark KenKen, LLC Distributed by Andrews McMeel

30X

2÷

12X

2-

3÷

4

1-

5

5-

2-

11+

2-

3+

3

150X

3÷

1

7+

CHALLENGING

Trademark KenKen, LLC Distributed by Andrews McMeel

315246

643521

431652

526413

264135

152364

1

2

3

4

5

6

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

1/31/23

HOROSCOPE

By HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): Should you take on the conflict or should you dodge it? There are many ways you could handle things, and you have time to consider options and act strategically.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): The day's challenge will confound you temporarily, but if you're willing to ask around, you'll get what you need to figure it out.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): As much as you want to be taken care of, you will only accept care from people you trust.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): What you need changes from day to day. Sometimes self-care is a hard challenge and other times it's comfort and warmth.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): It's smart to engage people with fun first and get some kind of rapport going before you launch into learning more.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Fewer rules for yourself and others will make the work of forgiveness unnecessary.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Whatever your pursuit, your quest will be a desire for mastery.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Love and pain are bookends. With great wisdom and maturity, you accept the duality of feelings and the fullness of their range.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll learn about a subject and about yourself at the same time. You can't interact with anything today without catching glimpses of yourself.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Some days it's harder to cover the basics, not because they are not present but because something stops you from getting enough. It will take mindful effort to get the sleep, water or love you need.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You're good at reading

people and their attractions. Interested parties mirror your movements to get in sync, or go the other direction as a form of playful flirting.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Sometimes being positive means identifying potential trouble sources so you can steer clear.

Today's birthday (Jan. 31): Demonstrations of love! Appreciation you can feel and taste! It's beautiful, but what's even better is that it feels right to value and cherish yourself. An expertise will earn you respect and special perks. More highlights include heart-swooning magic, a well-deserved and high-profile credit and three instances of doubling your money. Virgo and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers: 5, 3, 10, 9 and 15.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis
By John Guzzetta

ACROSS

- Shapeless mass
- Syst. with hand gestures
- Zac of "High School Musical"
- German automaker
- Ill-mannered sort
- Like some dips
- Metropolitan haze
- Skin care balm
- Argon and oxygen
- Rebate redeemer's requirement, usually
- Acct. earnings
- "Arrested Development" actor Will
- Patterned fabric
- Manolo Blahnik creation
- Long story
- Branch
- __ deco
- Moving vehicle
- Golf course rental
- Motto for a socially responsible corporation
- Motown genre
- Reddit tell-all sesh
- Attempt
- "Mean Girls" screenwriter Tina
- "Halt!"
- Curved foot part
- Live (in)
- "Lucifer" actress Helfer
- Lingus
- Academic ultimatum
- Egypt's continent
- Colorado Plateau natives
- Well-behaved
- "Carol" Oscar nominee Mara
- Meh-worthy
- "Reservation Dogs" streaming service
- Donkeys
- With 71-Across, Destiny's Child or the Supremes, and an apt description of this puzzle's longest answers
- See 70-Across

DOWN

- __-relief
- Shapeless mass
- Smell
- Bloc in the fossil fuels lobby, collectively
- To the back, on a boat

- Song for one
- Shower scrubber
- Passes into law
- Seafood snack in a shell
- "Undone" voice actress Salazar
- Dollar bills
- Org. with opening and closing bells
- Admonish
- Fantasy brute
- Former NBA great Shaquille
- Dig up
- Lights-out music
- Double Stuf cookies
- "See ya"
- Tolerate
- Social blunder
- Disney mermaid
- Stephen of "The Crying Game"
- "All Things Considered" airer
- "bye 4 now"
- Story's framework
- Assorted
- Actress Winona
- Does some comparison shopping

- Like some cargo carriers
- "Native Son" novelist Richard
- "My stars!"
- Greek storyteller
- Prefix with sail
- Some fuzzy tabloid pics
- Dudes
- Mexican money
- Like unripe grapes
- Hindu spring festival
- Couple

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BRIDGE

By FRANK STEWART

A middle-aged couple had joined my club and was playing in duplicate games.

"They say they want to make their marriage more exciting," Cy the Cynic told me as we sat in the lounge.

"I tried to add some excitement to my marriage," Unlucky Louie sighed, "but my wife found out."

"How well do they play?" I asked the Cynic.

"You be the judge," Cy said, displaying today's deal. "They were North-South. Their bidding to four spades was fine, but the husband was declarer and made the play more exciting than it should have been. I was West and led the 10 of clubs. My partner took the ace and returned the five.

"Declarer won and led a trump at the third trick. I took the ace and led a third club, and East ruffed and cashed his ace of hearts for down one."

"I think I get the idea," I said.

Declarer had a blind spot. After he wins the second club, he must take dummy's A-K of diamonds to discard his last high club. Then he can lead a trump safely.

You hold: ♠ J 3 ♥ Q 10 9 2 ♦ A K J 4 ♣ 6 4 2. The dealer, at your left, opens three clubs. Your partner doubles, and the next player passes. What do you say?

Answer: You have 11 good points, and your partner was willing to play for nine tricks even if you had none. He will usually have support for the unbid suits, especially for the majors. Jump to four

hearts. If partner's hand is A K 8 7, A K 8 4, Q 7 6 5, 3, you may take 12 tricks.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ J 3
♥ Q 10 9 2
♦ A K J 4
♣ 6 4 2

WEST

♠ A
♥ 8 7 5 3
♦ 9 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 3

EAST

♠ 8 6 2
♥ A J 4
♦ Q 10 8 7 5
♣ A 5

SOUTH

♠ K Q 10 9 7 5 4
♥ K 6
♦ 6
♣ K Q J

WEST

Pass
2 ♠
4 ♠

NORTH

2 NT
Pass

EAST

Pass
Pass

Opening lead — ♠ 10

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

She's smitten but scared

Dear Amy: I recently ended a long and terrible marriage with an addict.

The marriage was over for a long time but because of debt and the pandemic, it took us a lot longer than I wanted for it to finally be done. By the end, it was like a prison sentence.

Throughout that process and for a couple years after, I spent time working on being a stronger, independent person — both for myself and for my daughters.

Recently I started trying to date again.

I met a few very nice men, but I didn't really connect. I was sure that I was good and happy being single.

But then I met a man who really got to me. We've been seeing each other for about a month. Now I'm smitten.

I'm so attracted to him and so scared of being hurt that I just want to break up before that happens.

I know he likes me too, but I don't think he likes me as much as I do him.

It's a scary place to be. I have a therapist who advises me to just have fun, but I'm getting more and more scared as time goes on. I just want to run and hide.

I'm too old for this silliness! Please help me to see this more clearly.

BURNED

Dear Burned: This is not "silliness." For you, fully engaging in a sexual and emotional relationship reveals your extreme vulnerability. This is the ongoing consequence of your previous experience, which you describe as a "prison sentence."

Your therapist's advice to "just have fun" is positive and logical. But if you are becoming more afraid of moving forward in a relationship, then your therapist should encourage you to confront and explore your fear. Your fear is also logical. If you've been in prison, it seems smart to try to avoid incarceration in the future.

Being smitten is a great feeling, but it brings forth a realization of what a risk it can be to fall for someone. The last time you were smitten, look at what happened!

My advice: Do your best to move forward in this relationship, but try to view it as part of your process, rather than the terminus of your search for happiness with a new partner. The lack of balance you perceive between you two is a red flag. Pay attention to your instincts.

The right partner for you will hear your story, accept your challenges and move forward at a pace that still feels thrilling but is more comfortable for you.

Dear Amy: A friend is hosting a baby shower for her pregnant daughter, who lives out of state. I've met the daughter only once. It was a quick introduction with no other interaction.

I am invited to the baby shower. I feel uncomfortable as I don't know the daughter and won't know anyone there except my friend.

I believe a shower should be for family and friends of the expectant mother.

Is it proper to be invited to a shower where you do not know the person?

UNCOMFORTABLE

Dear Uncomfortable: It sounds to me as if the prospective grandmother is trying to spread out her own joy by including one of her friends on the guest list.

I can't comment on whether it is "proper" for you to be invited to this shower. It is, however, proper to respond promptly to an invitation, expressing your appreciation for the invitation as well as your polite regrets: "Unfortunately, I won't be able to make it, but congratulations, Grandma! I hope everyone has a great and joyful time."

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at askamy@amydickinson.com.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

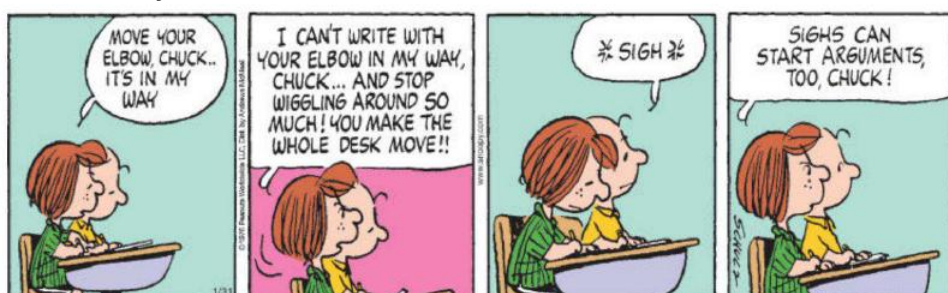
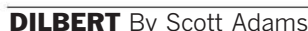
REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson

BLISS By Harry Bliss

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz



Been having fun for years

[Hundley, from E1] eter, along different lengths of the pins. It's unnerving to be the audience for such gestures: operatic in their meticulousness, observable by dint of their tiny optical real estate.

Hundley takes full advantage of his myriad material mediums to offer a sensation rarely associated with modern theater: care. I feel — I'm not sure how else to say it — *cared for* by this work. Call it the transitive property of care. I feel the pleasure of this attentiveness, even if its undercurrent is anxiety (and how could it not be? The show is literally on pins and needles!). It fuels my pleasure in looking, of paying attention to *his* attention. The walls are thrumming with it, mainly through the way the mosaiclike collages wend between the works. Tiny sequins and pictograms are strewn all over the place like seeds thrown to Echo, Hundley's pet parrot and the exhibition's namesake. The pink foam sculpture "Echo" (2022) was made in collaboration with the many bite marks of the parrot's beak. It's collage in the negative.

I spotted the Kool-Aid man — *twice*, across two different works. A minor detail, and probably a coincidence. But Kindor (he has a name) is also an avatar who likes to break the fourth wall. Or any wall.

The star of the show is "Balcony" (2021) a 40-foot-

'Elliott Hundley: Echo'

Where: Regen Projects, 6750 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A.

When: 10 a.m.-6 p.m Tuesdays-Saturdays. Closed Sundays and Mondays. Through Feb. 19.

Info: regenprojects.com, (310) 276-5424

For your safety

The Times is committed to covering indoor arts and entertainment events during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because attending carries risks during this time, we remind readers to follow health and safety guidelines as outlined by the CDC and local health officials.

long mural in the back room, taking as its starting point Jean Genet's satirical 1960s play of the same name. The play follows the comings and goings at an upscale brothel, helmed by Madame Irma, in an unnamed city in the throes of revolution. As the play progresses, the games of power and fantasy within the brothel collapse into the



JOSHUA WHITE Elliott Hundley / Regen Projects

"THE PLAGUE," a 2016 Elliott Hundley piece, layers a bounty of visual detail across 96 by 147 inches of panel.

action of the revolution progressing just outside. Hundley's "Balcony," a medley of aforementioned collage elements interrupted by colorful pools of poured encaustic on large linen panels, is also a collapse of power and play, constructed one tiny element at a time over the course of lockdown. You have to get close and walk the length of it many times, and yet I doubt any two viewers could extract the same experience from it. It's hot and inviting. Hundley plays Madame Irma to whatever fantasies and associations we might bring to this incredible quilt of images.

Though each painting is a stage, "Echo" sometimes

operates like a text in itself. The interstitial collage elements play the role of footnotes, or more accurately, the marginalia of a slightly older, wiser reader revisiting a beloved book. The show spans 22 years of work, and Hundley is kind to both himself and us in mitigating the impulse to edit older works by framing them with these little bits and pieces of elusive references, pinned like butterflies of memory to the margins of making.

Margins — this kind of textuality is always a bit kaleidoscopic, no? A bit freeform, a bit personal? I have many books, scripts and plays in my apartment, the texts wreathed with layers of notations in different

colors; visits from different Christinas I have been.

Here, the anxieties of the past all hang together in *louche* reconciliation. There's a word for reconciliation with the past. Forgiveness? *Oof*. Can you look in the mirror and say, "I forgive you" without throwing up in your mouth a little bit? That's perfectly normal. Go look at these collages instead.

Specifically, take some time in front of the big foam-backed one, "The Plague" (2016). It's puckered with what looks like bright red mouths. For a moment, I thought they were the back-sides of those novelty wax lips that at one point in this country were *somehow* con-

sidered candy. They are in fact hollow plastic tomatoes, halved and bent into the suggestion of lips.

During a walk-through, Hundley explained that he was thinking about the trope of an audience throwing tomatoes at a performer.

Frozen into gummy smiles, these weird mouths demonstrate how the solidity of the self-forgiving clown can take on anything, even the disdain of the audience, catching it like a bullet in the teeth. It may knock some teeth out in the process, but there is nothing scattered that can't be gathered up and put away for later, waiting its turn for salvation from a newer you.

'News on cable, not cable news'

[Licht, from E1] CNN at 11:30 p.m. ET and 8:30 p.m. PT.

Licht shared some thoughts on his vision for CNN in a conversation last week on a Zoom call from his office in New York.

How are you feeling about the fishbowl aspect of this job, where every move seems to be analyzed and criticized? Were you prepared for that?

It's a symptom of CNN's place in society. It's an incredibly big job that deserves this level of scrutiny, and when Zas offered me the job, he probably said 37 times in one conversation how brutal it was going to be. Intellectually, I absolutely expected this and I'm not surprised at all.

How is it emotionally?

Listen, you have to remember that I took this job because I was very clear on a vision of what I want to do and where I fit into Zaslav's vision of the company. So that's why I deleted my Twitter account. I'm not really susceptible to the highs and lows of it, because I'm really very focused on the end product.

What do you think is better about CNN since you arrived?

Too early to say because we haven't really executed a lot of what we're going to do. But I hope that CNN is better in that I'm allowing people to do their jobs and leaning into the talent that we have here. If I'm a correspondent, I feel like perhaps I have a bigger voice.

Are the correspondents getting more airtime?

Absolutely. We have fewer contributors, and we're leaning into more conversations with correspondents about their reporting. They're influencing the coverage in a way that they didn't before.

So there was some reporting that said you're looking to do some type of topical comedy show in prime time. Is that true?

No. I worked on a comedy show. And it took over 200 people to produce an actual comedy show. So no, I would not be so foolish as to, in one fell swoop, hurt the brand of comedy and news by trying to do a comedy show on CNN.

What are you doing?

I'm casting a wide net to help broaden the appeal of our prime time. But at the same time, I can't offend our core audience of news junkies. I would never do anything that would hurt the brand and reputation that

we're working so hard to restore.

Are you talking to comedians about being part of the new prime-time show?

We are in conversations with culturally relevant individuals from the worlds of entertainment, sports and comedy who can bring fresh and unique perspectives to the news.

Most funny comedians are liberal. Even Bill Maher has a liberal sensibility. How will this work for a network that is trying to appear less politically partisan?

There is nothing wrong with opinion or perspective, especially in prime time, but it has to be authentic. We are completely uninterested in partisan hackery and ideological talking points.

What is it about CNN's reputation that has to be restored?

I think we have to restore trust. It's that simple. You can talk to a lot of different people as to why that has eroded, but as opposed to looking back I will say one of our missions is to restore our reputation as the most trusted name in news. We certainly have research that shows that [trust] has eroded.

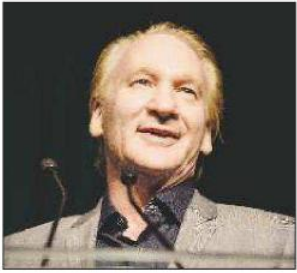
You wanted to get more Republican lawmakers on the network, and it seems like that's happening. How did you do it?

It was a very simple message. If you're looking for a softball interview, then that's not us. However, we also want to be a place where we can have an open exchange of ideas no matter where you're coming from, and that you would be treated with respect. We won't invite you on to score points on you. Come on and have an honest and open discussion about what your vision is for the future of this country, and be prepared to answer respectful, tough questions about that. And that's the message I brought when I went up in Capitol Hill. I spoke to the same number of Democrats and Republicans when I went up there at every level of leadership and basically said that same message. Because it was also: "Democrats, don't come on and expect that you're just going to get a rubber stamp." We're going to ask questions that help illuminate whatever we're talking about for the audience. And it all feeds into the broader strategy of trying not to be cable news. We're trying to be news on cable. And the difference is cable news is, you would invite people on to have a food



JAI LENNARD

CHRIS LICHT'S mission is to "restore [CNN's] reputation as the most trusted name in news."



CASEY CURRY Invision / AP

CNN will air "Overtime," an extension of "Real Time With Bill Maher."

fight and that was entertaining. But I think that doesn't serve society as a whole.

I don't want to use the word "deal," but do you have to set any type of conditions? During the coverage of the vote for speaker of the House, you had Ryan Zinke on. The Republican congressman from Montana with his cowboy hat. I've never seen him on cable news. He resigned from the Department of the Interior in the Trump administration and was the subject of numerous ethics investigations. He came on CNN, and he wasn't asked about any of that.

There are absolutely not deals like that. But I think it has to make sense in the scope of the discussion we're talking about. If he was coming on to promote something that flies in the face of something in his past, then absolutely we would then go, "But wait a second, you had to retire," or "You had to resign because of X, Y and Z." But if he's coming on to talk about a narrow focus, as he did about what was happening on the floor of the House, that is not the appropriate forum. If we're doing a broad-ranging interview,

then of course you're going to ask those questions.

So what was the fear factor for Republicans before? Why were they not coming on?

The general sense was that you would not get a fair shake and you wouldn't be allowed to make your point. Although some people came on our air specifically to fundraise. And I don't want CNN to be a place where you're going to have such a combative experience that you go fundraise off of it. It is best for our audience to understand where everybody is coming from.

How do you assess the performance of "CNN This Morning"?

Early days. It's just finding its footing. I think we have all the right raw materials, and now it's just really about coalescing how the show is produced around those three personalities and utilizing the resources of the network as best as it can. "Morning Joe" took about a year to get its footing.

The ratings were up 7% in the fourth quarter last year, helped by the coverage of the House speaker vote. But the numbers were down for the network overall in 2022. I know you're in a rebuilding mode, but at what point do you expect them to rise again?

What we are doing is fundamentally reformatting the network. And it'll take some time for that to get into a rhythm, and then it'll take time to market it. And so it will take some time to grow again. I have explicitly been given that time. Because the people I work for understand that we didn't

get here overnight and we're not going to get out of it overnight.

You often beat MSNBC in the 25 to 54 demographic during the day. There is also a news viewing habit during the daytime in which the audience expects a certain person to be there at a specific time. Why play around with that?

The new format completely establishes CNN's credibility and reputation. Because that is what's on in offices around the country, in Congress, etc. And we are just redeploying those familiar faces who are not newsreaders, they're actual journalists. So it's leaning into their strength, putting them in the same cities, and then really pulling back the curtain as to how we gather news and how a story incrementally changes over time. You're taking three anchors and you are evolving the news as it evolves for the viewer. In my mind, I want people to be making an appointment with CNN and really showcasing what only we can do, which is global newsgathering. At one point I thought maybe we put the 9 a.m. editorial call on the air. But I was talked out of it for a variety of reasons.

Lawyers probably talked you out of it.

I'm leaning into what makes us special and what will make us look different from our competitors. It's all about news on cable, not cable news, and trying to differentiate ourselves from our perceived-by-media-writers competition of MSNBC and Fox. I want us to be completely independent of that. So we're going to try this. It feels authentic. Those people who felt comfortable with the anchor and the appointment that you're talking about, I fully believe that they will start to make an appointment with CNN.

CNN is younger than the other news networks. But younger people are the ones who are abandoning pay TV. How are you going to reach them in the future?

You realize that I have the No. 1 digital platform in the world? That's where they're connecting with the brand. People that will never buy cable and have not bought cable are connecting with CNN far and away at greater numbers than any other newsroom on our digital platforms. And so that's part of our growth strategy. But at the same time, we have to really make the linear TV product essential, so that at some point when it's not on cable, the audience will have a brand recognition and a desire to interact with CNN, and that linear product will appear someplace where

they are.

You've done some cost-cutting, like other media outlets. But I was a little bit surprised that you are not going to buy any more films or series from outside producers for CNN Originals.

Why was that surprising to you?

Because those programs and movies gave CNN appointment viewing and a library that could be amortized over time. The content was easy to promote because of the big-name talent involved. Why do you think this was a place where you should cut?

First, I think we can do some of that with our own people. And I think we can really lean into making long-form programming that will have some of those same benefits. Also, I am part of Warner Bros. Discovery, which has all kinds of resources and content that we can also utilize on our platforms. [Amy Entelis, executive vice president for talent and content development] did an incredible job building that unit. It just got nominated for an Academy Award [for "Navalny"]. And she is in the middle of building an internal studio that can do some of that really glossy high-end stuff that we'll roll out next year.

That will be Oscar-worthy?

Why not? If we do it in a way where between leveraging resources at Warner Bros., using our people that are some of the best in the business, and some limited co-productions, I think we can absolutely scratch that itch.

Is your message about where you want to take the network resonating at all in the ad community and perhaps even helping firm up your position as the news channel that gets the highest ad rates?

One hundred percent. There's a major advertiser that pulled all of their advertising off of CNN who is now willing to come back. It was too controversial for them. I met with their chief marketing officer personally and explained what the vision is, and it was very warmly received. They actually pulled their advertising off of cable news because it became this thing that they didn't want to be a part of.

How often does David Zaslav call and say, "Hey, I like that," or "Hey, what are you doing? I don't like that"?

I would describe him as a super fan. He watches CNN all the time, and we have conversations about it all the time, but not in a directive way. He loves CNN. If he had a Nielsen box, we would be in great shape.



BY IAN JAMES
AND MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE
IN BERTHOUD PASS, COLO.

THE COLORADO RIVER begins as melting snow, trickling from forested peaks and coursing in streams that gather in the meadows and valleys of the Rocky Mountains. Like arteries, its major tributaries take shape across Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, coming together in a great river like no other — a river that travels more than 1,400 miles and has defined the rise of the American Southwest over the last century.

Water diverted from the river has enabled agriculture to spread across 5 million acres of farmland and has fed the growth of cities from Denver to Los Angeles, supplying about 40 million people. Harnessing the river’s bounty has provided the foundation for life and the economy across seven states and northern Mexico.

But the region has for years depended too heavily on the river, taking more than its flows can support. And in recent years, the river’s water-generating heart in the Rocky Mountains has begun to fail.

The Colorado River can no longer withstand the unbridled thirst of the arid West.

A century ago, the signing of the Colorado River Compact divided the water among the states. The agreement established a system that overpromised what the river could provide. That system, after years of warnings from scientists and insufficient efforts to adapt, is now colliding with the reality of a river that is overused and shrinking.

In the last 23 years, as rising temperatures fueled by the burning of fossil fuels have intensified the worst drought in centuries, the flow of the Colorado has declined about 20%. Reservoirs have dropped to

THE COLORADO RIVER IS IN CRISIS



And a water reckoning
is about to transform the
landscape of the Southwest

A **Los Angeles Times** SERIES OF STORIES, VIDEOS AND PODCASTS

record-low levels, and the shortage continues to worsen. Scarcity is pushing the region toward a water reckoning.

The looming consequences include major cuts in the supplies used for growing crops and sustaining cities. How those water reductions are divided among states, water districts and tribes has yet to be determined, and could end up being negotiated, dictated by the federal government or fought in court. But the need to shrink overall water use will probably result in less water flowing to farms, more water restrictions for residents and fewer green lawns, while also bringing calls for limiting growth, shifting away from thirsty crops like alfalfa, and dedicating less water to golf courses and other water-guzzling businesses.

The Colorado River Basin, which stretches from Wyoming to northern Mexico, is facing unresolved questions about how to adapt, at what cost, and where the cuts will fall the hardest.

The task of downsizing water use is complicated by an allocation system that promised now-nonexistent water on paper, as well as a legal system that benefits those with the oldest, most senior water rights.

Over the last several years, managers of water agencies have reached deals to take less water from the river. But those reductions haven’t been nearly enough to halt the river’s spiral toward potential collapse.

As Lake Mead, the nation’s largest reservoir, continues to decline toward “dead pool” levels, the need to rein in water demands is growing urgent.

Efforts to adapt will require difficult decisions about how to deal with the reductions and limit the damage to communities, the economy and the river’s already degraded ecosystems. Adapting may also drive a fundamental rethinking of how the river is managed and used, redrawing a system that is out of balance.

[See Crisis, AA2]

NAVIGATING THROUGH a forest of snow-covered pines, Brian Domonkos skied up to a site high in the Rocky Mountains, the source of the Colorado River.

He had come to check the snowpack at an isolated stand of monitoring equipment near Berthoud Pass, Colo., where the day before 5 inches of snow had fallen.

“I hope this holds on a little while longer,” said Domonkos, a snow survey supervisor for the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Last spring, the snowpack across the Upper Colorado River Basin stood at 86% of average. By the end of July, however, the melting snow brought runoff that measured just 67% of average.

This pattern has emerged year after year in the river’s headwaters. A near-average snowpack has often translated into meager flows in the Colorado River and its tributaries.

This winter, storms have brought an above-average snowpack in the watershed. But that snow can go only so far in boosting reservoirs that have been dropping for more than two decades.

Average temperatures across the upper watershed have risen about 3 degrees since 1970. That has contributed to the driest 22-year period in at least 1,200 years.

With higher temperatures, trees and other plants have been absorbing more water, and more moisture has been evaporating off the landscape. In recent years, long dry spells in the mountains have left the soils parched. And when the snow has melted in the spring, the amount of runoff flowing in streams has often been diminished.

“We are seeing less water,” Domonkos said. “And we’re going to have to adapt.”

The river’s main stem takes shape in Rocky Mountain National Park, winding through an alpine valley, then flows into reservoirs and meanders through ranchlands.

On one of these ranches, Wendy Thompson can see the river standing outside her house. “This time of year, it ought to be another foot, 2 feet deeper,” Thompson said.

Thompson is 67 and remembers much more snow in Colorado when she was growing up. The flooding river used to swell across the pastures.

Upstream diversions and dry years have left the river smaller. Some sections on her ranch now usually flow less than 2 feet deep.

In late spring and early summer, Thompson pumped from the river to irrigate her hay fields, and sold the crop to other ranchers.

Many ranchers have had less water for their pastures lately, and some have sold cattle to reduce their herds. “Everyone knows that we’re dry,” Thompson said. “In this area, when there’s no water, you just don’t irrigate.”

Upstream from western Colorado’s ranchlands, water is diverted and routed to the east, flowing through a series of tunnels that pass beneath the Continental Divide to supply Denver and other growing Front Range cities. Two new reservoir projects are under construction to hold more water.

The diversions from Grand Lake are a source of concern for Ken Fucik, a retired environmental scientist and board member of the Upper Colorado River Watershed Group. He said he is worried about water quality and recent algae blooms in the lake and adjacent reservoirs.

Fucik questioned whether the new reservoir projects make sense when the river’s existing reservoirs are rapidly declining.

“Where is that water going to come from?” he said.

FOR MORE THAN a century, the history of the Colorado River has been shaped by monumental human efforts to control and exploit its waters.

The river has been flowing in its course for millions of years, downcutting through layers of sandstone, limestone, granite, shale and schist to form the Grand Canyon.

Indigenous peoples have lived along the river and its tributaries for thousands of years, adorning rocks on canyon walls with petroglyphs and pictographs.

The river’s Spanish name, *Colorado*, or red, described the muddy, silt-laden waters that coursed through canyons.

In the mid-1800s, as white settlers moved west, steamboats chugged up the lower Colorado River. Settlers began diverting water from streams and rivers, taking water rights under the prior appropriation system — “first in time, first in right.”

The great ambition of politicians, engineers and fortune-seekers was to tame the river and harness its water.

In the early 1900s, they focused on building irrigation projects to “reclaim” the arid lands, a phrase central to the purpose of the Reclamation Service, which was created in 1902 under President Theodore Roosevelt and which later became the Bureau of Reclamation.

From the beginning, some warned against relying too heavily on the river. John Wesley Powell, leader of the historic 1869 expedition down the river through the Grand Canyon, famously told attendees at an 1893 irrigation congress in Los Angeles: “I tell you, gentlemen, you are piling up a heritage of conflict and litigation over water rights, for there is not sufficient water to supply these lands.”

Before the signing of the 1922 Colorado River Compact, some scientists warned that there was insuffi-



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

cient water, but those warnings went unheeded.

The compact apportioned the river “in perpetuity,” allocating 7.5 million acre-feet of water for the Upper Basin states — Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico — and 7.5 million acre-feet for the Lower Basin states of California, Arizona and Nevada. Mexico later secured 1.5 million acre-feet under a 1944 treaty.

The river was divided among the states during an especially wet period in the early 20th century.

Hoover Dam was built during the Great Depression in the 1930s. Workers finished pouring the concrete at Glen Canyon Dam in 1963.

Over the last half a century, so much water has been diverted that for many years the river has been entirely used up, leaving dusty stretches of desert where it once flowed to the sea in Mexico.

Even in the 1980s, when plentiful water filled the reservoirs, some presciently warned that the Colorado could not withstand all the demands placed upon it. In the seminal 1986 book “Cadillac Desert,” Marc Reisner predicted chronic shortages in the years to come, saying the region had already begun to “founder on the Era of Limits.”

The strains on the river have grown more acute with humanity’s heating of the planet. In the 1990s and 2000s, scientists repeatedly warned that chronic overuse of the river combined with the effects of climate change would probably drain reservoirs to dangerously low levels.

During the last decade, scientists have found that roughly half the decline in the river’s flow has been due to higher temperatures; that climate change is driving the aridification of the Southwest; and that for each additional 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit), the river’s average flow is likely to decrease about 9%.

The system of dividing the water, including the agreement signed a century ago, was designed for a climate that no longer exists, said Becky Bolinger, assistant state climatologist at the Colorado Climate Center. Continuing this pattern of overuse, she said, is like depleting a bank account by overspending, edging closer to bankruptcy.

“It’s not going to work for anybody,” Bolinger said. “What we really need to do is just completely readjust the budget.”

Interior Department officials have said annual diversions need to be reduced by 2 million to 4 million acre-feet, or about 15% to 30%. They have urged the seven states that rely on the river to reach a consensus, while warning they may need to impose cuts.

So far, negotiators for states and water agencies have failed to agree on how to share such large reductions. Some fear these disputes

A BUOY on a dried mud flat in Lake Mead, the nation’s largest reservoir. As the lake declines, the need to rein in water demands from the Colorado River is growing urgent.

could lead to lawsuits.

“We have got to put the kibosh on these extra water uses right now, the uses of water beyond what’s being supplied. Either we stop them or nature will,” said Brad Udall, a water and climate scientist at Colorado State University. “Make no mistake. This is a full-on five-alarm fire going on right now.”

The Colorado River has reached this critical stage in a decade when extreme droughts have shrunk other rivers to historic lows around the world, from the Mississippi and the Rio Grande to the Yangtze in China, and the Danube and Rhine in Europe.

Research has shown that climate change is intensifying the water cycle, bringing more intense and frequent droughts, as well as more intense rainfall and floods. In one recent study, researchers found that streams in the western and southern United States have been drying over the last 70 years, with flow data revealing longer and more severe low-flow periods.

Even as wet and dry cycles continue to come and go, the Colorado River is on a long-term downward trend of aridification because of higher temperatures, Udall said.

“It’s fundamentally changing, and it’s not going to go back to how it was before,” Udall said. “We’re going to have to talk about permanent reductions in water use.”

An unrecognizable, falling Lake Powell

BY IAN JAMES
IN LAKE POWELL, UTAH

MUDDY WATER whizzed past as John Weisheit steered a motorboat upstream in the Colorado River. He revved the engine as the boat sped around a bend and up a riffle.

All along the river’s banks, giant mounds of dried mud and silt rose taller than houses — sediment that settled in Lake Powell over decades and has been left exposed by the reservoir’s retreating waters.

Suddenly, the water turned rough around Weisheit and his four passengers. The rapids rose up in waves. The boat descended in a churning brown trough and hit bottom, then popped up, throwing the passengers to the front.

“This is really gnarly,” Weisheit said. “I don’t know if I’m willing to flip a boat for this.”

Weisheit said he thought he knew this part of the Colorado River, like so many other stretches where he

The Colorado River Basin



Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, Center for Geospatial Solutions, USGS National Hydrography Dataset, Mexico’s National Institute of Statistics and Geography

SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times

has guided expeditions over the last four decades. But this portion of the river just upstream from Lake Powell has been transformed by the reservoir’s decline.

“I’m totally cognizant of the fact that 40 million people need this river. But unfortunately, this river can’t sustain 40 million people. And that’s the problem,” Weisheit said.

The signing of the Colorado River Compact a century ago divided the water among seven states, but the system of allocations and rights promised far more water than the river could provide.

Weisheit said he has seen the water deficit mounting for years, and now the river is approaching a breaking point. “We’re backed into a corner,” Weisheit said. “With or without climate change, this would still happen. Climate change just makes it worse and more severe.”

Weisheit, an environmental activist and veteran river guide, said he has long been convinced that the crisis would come because the allocation system has left supply and demand perpetually out of balance. The pattern of depletion has worsened as the river’s flow has shrunk during 23 years of drought compounded by rising temperatures.

Weisheit said he feels frustrated and angry about how the river has been “enslaved,” overallocated and mismanaged for decades.

After encountering the new rapids in the shifting sediment, Weisheit said going farther upstream could be dangerous. He turned around and headed back downstream.

“This is nothing but reservoir sediment over here,” Weisheit said. “It’s totally different. I’m shocked.”

Cliffs of dried reservoir silt towered over the river. On top of these formations, tumbleweeds sprouted in patches. Now and then, a piece of the mud cliffs broke off and fell into the river like a collapsing glacier, releasing a puff of dust.

Lake Powell has shimmered between red canyon walls since Glen Canyon Dam was completed in the 1960s. But over the last two years, the reservoir’s level has dropped more than 50 feet. Its surface now sits less than 35 feet away from a point where the dam would no longer generate power.

The federal managers of Glen Canyon Dam are trying to boost the reservoir by reducing the amount of water they release downstream until the spring runoff arrives. They’ve warned they may need to further cut back water releases.

If the reservoir keeps dropping beyond a critical threshold, the main intakes would no longer be usable and water would flow only through the dam’s lower bypass tubes, which have reduced capacity. That could lead to less water passing downstream, shrinking the river’s flow in the Grand Canyon and accelerating the decline of Lake Mead toward “dead pool” — the point at which water would no longer pass through Hoover Dam to Arizona, California and Mexico.

The danger of reaching a catastrophic scenario in which the water runs out is prompting urgent discussions among public officials about how to respond. Despite widespread agreement on the need to cut water use, representatives of states and water agencies have yet to agree on how the reductions should be divided.

Weisheit said he blames the region’s water managers, who years ago understood the gap between supply and demand but largely ignored warnings from scientists and failed to balance the water budget.

“Nobody did anything to prevent this day of reckoning from coming,” he said. “So the imbalance is going to sink the ship.”

Weisheit, 68, lives in Moab, Utah, and has spent his life boating and exploring the river. He is co-founder of the group Living Rivers and works with the Waterkeeper Alliance, serving as the Colorado Riverkeeper, the organization’s one representative in the watershed.

Weisheit first visited Lake Powell on a family boating trip in 1972, when he was 18, and enjoyed skiing across the clear, blue water. The following year, the lake level rose dramatically, and when Weisheit returned, he saw that the rising water had covered trees and ancient Indigenous ruins. He saw beavers that seemed to be searching for their drowned habitat.

“That’s when the light went on,” Weisheit said.

His views about the river and the dam were shaped by his years guiding trips on the river, including expeditions with scientists. He and his wife, Susette, also a river guide, were married at the confluence of the Green and Colorado rivers.

In recent years, Weisheit has condemned the status quo water management system, filed lawsuits against the government, opposed Utah’s plans for a new 140-mile water pipeline to take more from the river, and argued that Glen Canyon Dam should be decommissioned to restore the river to a more natural state.

Weisheit points out that from the beginning, some well-informed people were convinced that building Glen Canyon Dam was a mistake, and that there wasn’t enough water to meet all the demands. He cites the 1954 congressional testimony of California water lawyer Northcutt Ely opposing the dam.

One of Weisheit’s mentors was David Brower, the late leader of the Sierra Club who lamented losing a “living canyon of incredible, haunting beauty,” and who offered him advice about how to push for change through activism.

After a night camping by the river, Weisheit guided the boat downstream while the canyon walls glowed red in the rising sun. Pelicans soared past and landed on a sandbar. When the boat reached a point where the current disappeared, the water's color changed from brown to translucent green. A thick mat of driftwood floated in the still water of Lake Powell.

As the reservoir has declined, portions of Glen Canyon that were underwater for decades are re-emerging. In one side canyon, the bare, pale limbs of long-drowned cottonwood trees protrude from the water like freshly unearthed fossils.

In other narrow canyons, water seeps from the rock walls, nourishing natural "hanging gardens" of ferns and orchids.

"Ecologically, it's a vibrant river. It's one of the most vibrant I've ever seen," Weisheit said. "In my lifetime, I have seen this change. And that's profound because nature doesn't work that quick, unless there's something goofy."

He said he thinks the increasingly sediment-filled reservoir represents a failed attempt at controlling nature, and a problem that will bring major costs — just like the perpetual overuse of water.

A recent federal survey found Lake Powell has lost nearly 6.8% of its water-storing capacity due to the accumulation of sediments in the reservoir bottom since the 1960s. Weisheit said he worries not only about the lack of a plan to remove sediment, but also about the risks the dam would face in a flood, which could be larger than the one that filled the reservoir to the brim in 1983.

As part of the federal government's newly launched process of revising the rules for dealing with shortages, Weisheit and other activists have presented a list of recommendations. They've said mandatory water cuts are necessary and that water deliveries should be adjusted to match the river's flow. They've also urged the Bureau of Reclamation to look beyond the drought and prepare for more intense floods, saying in a letter that in the coming decades, "adaptation to global warming must include the impacts of large precipitation events."

On a nearby stretch of river that used to be underwater in Lake Powell, whitewater rafters stepped out of boats onto a steep bank of dried silt.

Large cracks had formed in the dirt, and the guides said they didn't know how much longer the bank might hold before it collapsed.

"This just looks so unsafe," Weisheit said, inspecting a gaping crack in the ground.

The next morning, Weisheit put in the boat at Lees Ferry and headed upstream toward Glen Canyon Dam. Because the dam traps silt, the river downstream from it flows clear and green.

"It's sad because I know this is not what the Colorado River is supposed to look like," Weisheit said. "Nature would brown this up a bit and put some driftwood in it, lots of sand."

He said he's certain that the river will return to its natural state someday. The longer the dam remains operational, he said, the tougher restoration will be.

Last year, Weisheit and other environmentalists announced a contest, inviting engineers and engineering students to submit proposals for reengineering Glen Canyon Dam and rewilding the river. That would fit with Weisheit's long-standing proposal for decommissioning the dam. Other activists have for years supported a similar proposal called Fill Mead First, which would gradually drain Lake Powell and store the water downstream in Lake Mead.

"I want a different system. Because this is a system that comes to an end. This is not a forever system," Weisheit said.

His stance is squarely at odds with the predominant position of water management officials, who say the dam continues to serve its purposes of storing water, generating power and providing flood protection. But Weisheit said the dropping water levels have revealed the dam's limitations.

"It works until it doesn't," he said. "Now we know it's a failure."

Weisheit motored close to the dam. He cut the engines and let the boat drift to a thicket on the bank. He looked up at the dam's towering concrete face with an expression of disgust.

"I see vanity, hubris. I see arrogance," Weisheit said. "We're not respecting nature. We're not. It has limits."



CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

Desert agriculture under pressure

BY IAN JAMES
IN HOLTVILLE, CALIF.

JUST NORTH OF the California-Mexico border, the All-American Canal cuts across 80 miles of barren, dune-swept desert. Up to 200 feet wide and 20 feet deep, the canal delivers the single largest share of Colorado River water to the fertile farmlands of the Imperial Valley.

It's more water than what Los Angeles, Phoenix and Las Vegas get combined, and it's used to grow lettuce, broccoli, carrots and spinach, as well as hay to supply beef and dairy operations, wheat, melons, lemons and other crops.

Since its founding in 1911, the Imperial Irrigation District has held some of the most senior water rights on the river, and it is among the last in line to take cuts. Its water rights, which date to 1901, support the local farm economy and sustain a substantial portion of the nation's food supply.

But as the Colorado's largest reservoir declines closer to "dead pool" levels, politicians and water managers in other states are calling on the IID to make cuts beyond the 250,000 acre-feet, or about 9%, that the agency has pledged to make starting this year. They say that the dire state of Lake Mead warrants larger cuts, and that much of the reductions will need to come from agriculture because roughly 80% of the river's water is used for farming — a large portion of it for alfalfa and other thirsty crops.

The demands have struck an anxious chord among Imperial Valley growers, who say their way of life could be threatened and the country's food security is at stake. There are about 400 farms in the Imperial Valley, and together with nearby farmlands around Yuma, Ariz., they produce most of the country's winter vegetables.

Farmers say they understand

NORTH of California's border with Mexico, the All-American Canal cuts across 80 miles of desert to deliver Colorado River water to the farmlands of the Imperial Valley.

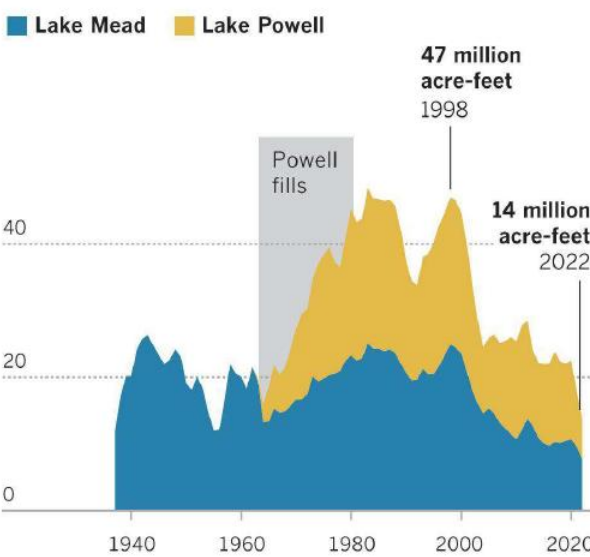


Desert farmers brace for a future with less water. Our video:



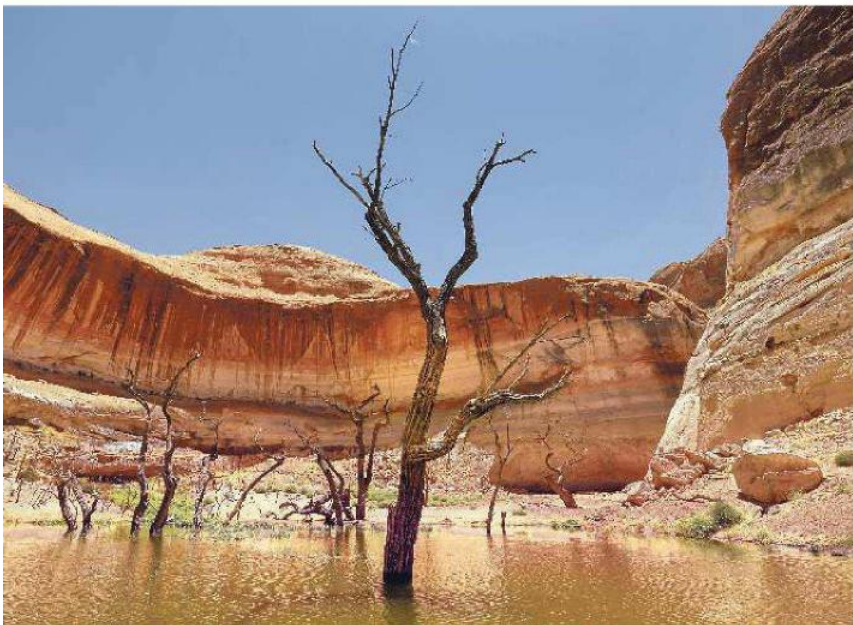
Lakes Mead and Powell have reached historic lows

Annual average storage in millions of acre-feet



Data through 2022
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times



CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

AS LAKE POWELL has declined, parts of Glen Canyon that were underwater for decades are reemerging. In one side canyon, bare cottonwood trees protrude from the lake.

that the crisis is serious and that everyone needs to use less water from the river. But many are adamant that they hope to avoid leaving fields dry and fallow, which they say would harm the economy and food production. They say they are willing to shift to more water-efficient irrigation systems to free up water and boost reservoir levels, so long as they are paid enough to help foot the bill.

Some growers have already been installing water-saving sprinklers on their fields, aiming to stretch the available water further.

"The Colorado River system is in dire straits," said Ben Abatti III, a 28-year-old farmer. "We know we're going to have to save water."

Beside him, sprinklers sprayed a field of newly planted basil. The sprinklers use less water than the usual practice of opening canal gates and letting the water flow in to flood fields.

Abatti estimates that assembling the network of pipes on a field can reduce a row crop's water consumption by 10% to 25%. But they are expensive, he said, costing about \$4,000 per acre to buy or about \$400 per acre to rent for a season.

Installing more sprinklers and other water-efficient irrigation systems would enable the valley's farmers to significantly reduce water usage while maintaining crop production, Abatti said. He said he hopes farmers will receive financial help so they can scale up conservation while continuing to farm.

The Bureau of Reclamation is offering \$4 billion in drought mitigation funding, including money to pay growers who temporarily forgo some of their water.

Farmers and IID officials have said they prefer to prioritize improving water efficiency rather than leaving farmland dry. The district could conserve by lining more of its earthen canals with concrete to keep water from seeping into the ground, and by building other infrastructure to reduce spillage.

But some of the district's board members have acknowledged that some land-fallowing will probably be necessary, at least temporarily.

Abatti is a third-generation farmer who works with his father, mother and brother. He started driving a tractor with his father when he was 8.

"It's kind of just in my blood," he said. "And I'd love to keep doing this."

But he and other farmers say they're increasingly concerned about the risks of a worst-case scenario. And some criticize the federal government for not imposing larger cuts throughout the region sooner to head off a potential disaster.

If Lake Mead were to hit "dead pool" levels, that would cut off the flow to California, Nevada and Mexico, including the only supply of water for nine cities and about 500,000 acres of farmland in the Imperial Valley. In such a scenario, Abatti said, farm fields would turn to dust, people would be forced to move, and Americans would see food shortages and higher prices at grocery stores.

He and other growers say they see an urgent need to reduce water use throughout the Southwest, and they're bracing for larger cuts.

Andrew Leimgruber, a fourth-generation farmer, said he is disappointed with how federal officials have handled the situation as the reservoirs have dropped.

"We should have been making cuts quicker. I believe we need to be making more cuts than we are now. And it's going to cause pain."

As he spoke, workers were laying out the metal pieces of an overhead sprinkler system to irrigate a field of organic greens.

"I believe that the burden is going to have to ultimately be shared by all and that some major changes need to happen," Leimgruber said. "But it can't just always be off the backs of agriculture."

Leimgruber said he is putting in four new water-saving irrigation systems. He and other growers can still do more to conserve, he said, "but a lot of us think anything over 20% in reduction would have huge impacts."

Over the last two decades, the Imperial Irrigation District has significantly scaled back water use. Under a 2003 water transfer deal, the district began selling water to Southern California cities, reducing its annual

usage from 3.1 million acre-feet to about 2.6 million acre-feet.

Those savings have been achieved partly through a program in which growers propose plans for conserving on their farms and receive payments from the district. In the deal's initial years, the district also paid farmers to leave some fields dry, but land-fallowing was controversial and was phased out.

Some landowners have converted thousands of acres of farmlands to solar panels, allowing the water to be used elsewhere.

But farmers say they don't want to fallow much land because they've seen how drying up fields affects the whole farm economy, from laborers to sellers of seeds and supplies.

Stephen Benson, a farmer and former IID board member, said the question should be how to redouble conservation efforts while keeping farms going.

"We have implemented drip. We've implemented sprinklers on crops that have never used those systems. And the reality is we can conserve water, but the cost is so high," Benson said. "There needs to be a set of incentives."

Some researchers have suggested that because alfalfa and other cattle-feed crops consume a large share of the river, an effective way of dramatically reducing water use would be to leave some of these lands dry on a rotating basis or seasonally. In the last year, though, alfalfa prices reached record highs. And some farmers say it makes sense to keep growing hay because it's lucrative.

Another major issue is the shrinking Salton Sea, which is fed by agricultural runoff. The water transfer deal has accelerated the lake's decline. Its ecosystem has been deteriorating, and its retreating shorelines spew dust into communities where people already suffer from asthma at high rates.

The Imperial Irrigation District's managers demanded federal money to support environmental projects at the lake as a key condition for participating in cuts. And the Biden administration responded with a plan to provide \$250 million to accelerate the construction of wetlands along the retreating shores to provide habitat for birds and help control dust.

California uses more Colorado River water than any other state. And some officials from other states have been pushing for California's big water users, including the IID, to agree to larger reductions.

In contrast to the Imperial Valley's senior water rights, Arizona's cities rely on junior rights that are vulnerable to cuts. This year, Arizona is already being forced to take 21% less water from the river.

Tom Buschatzke, director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources, has said the water-rights priority system is the "single biggest thing that is making discussions among the states extremely difficult."

"Higher-priority water users are saying it should be the lower-priority water users that should do this," Buschatzke said. "But at the end of the day, if the system crashes, and no water's coming out of either lake, your priority and your piece of paper doesn't mean a thing."

Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and others have suggested it's time to revamp the 1922 Colorado River Compact, which divided the water among the seven states, to include measures for apportioning reductions.

Water managers from Nevada and other states have urged the federal government to start accounting for evaporation losses from reservoirs and canals in the river's Lower Basin, which could translate into major reductions for California.

Some farmers in Imperial County say that they're willing to help reduce water use but that the system for dealing with shortages is laid out in the law of the river. They point out that the water-rights system requires those with junior water rights, such as Arizona's cities, to take the largest cuts first.

"The rules are the rules," said John Hawk, a farmer and Imperial County supervisor who lives in Holtville.

Hawk said he would be willing to cut water use by giving up a wheat crop and temporarily fallowing some land — if he receives compensation.

Some farmers say they fear that powerful city water agencies could try to target the Imperial Valley's water as the shortage worsens.

"We do not know what's going to happen with the water," said Luis Velez, a 21-year-old farmer.

Velez, who started his company at 19, has been growing alfalfa, Bermuda grass, wheat and onions. But during part of last year, the shortage prompted the IID to impose a water limit on each farm under its so-called equitable distribution plan.

To stay under his allocation, Velez decided not to plant one 30-acre field of onions.

"This is a very high-producing field," Velez said, standing on the bare, hardened dirt. "I decided not to plant anything this year, because just of the uncertainty that growers are experiencing. I do not know if I'm going to be able to finish out this crop, if we'll have enough water."

Velez said he's also dealing with rising costs for fertilizer, fuel and other supplies. And he feels uncertain about the future. "Honestly, I'm scared," Velez said. "I don't know if I'll be here in the next 10 years farming, just due to the water issues."

Velez said he hopes to continue farming.

"We love doing what we do," he said. "But we feel threatened."

Colorado River water started flowing to farmland in the valley in 1949 through the Coachella Canal, a branch of the All-American Canal that runs across the desert. The imported water enabled farms to flourish, and nowadays agriculture consumes 72% of the canal's water, accounting for about half the valley's usage and producing crops such as grapes, dates, peppers, lemons and carrots.

Since 2003, the Coachella Valley has received an increasing amount of Colorado River water under an agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District.

The local water agencies also have an agreement to obtain imported water in the western side of the valley by trading their allotted State Water Project supplies to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for equivalent amounts of Colorado River water. This water flows from the Colorado River Aqueduct and pours into a groundwater replenishment facility on the outskirts of Palm Springs. During the last three years of drought, these supplies have been reduced to a fraction of the full allocation.

There are about 120 golf courses in the Coachella Valley, and they account for 18% of the area's water use. A single course can consume as much as 1 million gallons a day.

Records show the valleys' golf courses used about the same amount of water in 2019 as they did in 2010, drawing more than half their water from wells, nearly a third from the Colorado River and the remainder from recycled wastewater.

Although new golf courses have become rare, developers have been turning to other types of water-intensive amenities. Projects that are in the works include a 20-acre surf lagoon in Thermal and a 24-acre lagoon at Disney's Cotino development in Rancho Mirage.

But in La Quinta, the City Council recently rejected plans for an 18 million-gallon surf park after an outpouring of opposition by residents, who argued the resort would drain precious water that the community needs. Hernández Orellana and Barrows were among those who spoke against the surf park. They said they were pleased, and a bit surprised, when it was defeated.

The couple said filling more artificial lakes in the desert simply doesn't make sense, especially with the Colorado River dwindling. Becoming more sustainable, they said, demands switching to much lower water use.

They've demonstrated how it can be done at their house, where they have no grass and no swimming pool. Their frontyard has native plants that attract hummingbirds and monarch butterflies. In the back, they grow tomatoes and peppers in their garden, and their water bill shows they use much less than most homeowners.

"Our desert is beautiful as it is, and I think people should learn how to appreciate it and stop ... putting it under the knife," Hernández Orellana said.

She said she's concerned that if overpumping of groundwater is allowed to continue, there will be consequences.

"It's definitely going to affect our area if people continue to be irresponsible," she said. "Sooner rather than later, people are going to start regretting what they did."



Worry over growth and groundwater

BY IAN JAMES
IN BUCKEYE, ARIZ.

KATHLEEN FERRIS stared across a desert valley dotted with creosote bushes, wondering where the water will come from to supply tens of thousands of new homes. In the distance, a construction truck rumbled along a dirt road, spewing dust.

This tract of open desert west of Phoenix is slated to be transformed into a sprawling development with up to 100,000 homes — a 37,000-acre property that the developers say will become Arizona's largest master-planned community.

"It's mind-boggling," Ferris said. "I don't think there is enough water here for all the growth that is planned."

Water supplies are shrinking throughout the Southwest, from the Rocky Mountains to California, with the flow of the Colorado River declining and groundwater levels dropping in many areas. The mounting strains on the region's water supplies are bringing new questions about the unrestrained growth of sprawling suburbs.

Ferris, a researcher at Arizona State University's Kyl Center for Water Policy, is convinced that growth is surpassing the water limits in parts of Arizona, and she worries that the development boom is on a collision course with the aridification of the Southwest and the finite supply of groundwater that can be pumped from desert aquifers.

For decades, Arizona's cities and suburbs have been among the nation's fastest-growing. In most areas, water scarcity has yet to slow the march of development much.

But as drought, climate change and the chronic overuse of water drain the Colorado River's reservoirs, federal authorities are de-



CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

manding the largest reduction ever in water diversions in an effort to avoid "dead pool" — the point at which reservoir levels fall so low that water stops flowing downriver.

Already, Arizona is being forced to take 21% less water from the Colorado River, and larger cuts will be needed as the crisis deepens.

To deal with those reductions and access other supplies to serve growth, the state is turning more heavily to its underground aquifers. As new subdivisions continue to spring up, workers are busy drilling new wells.

Ferris and others warn, however, that allowing development reliant solely on groundwater is unsustainable, and that the solution should be to curb growth in areas without sufficient water.

"What we're going to see is more and more pressure on groundwater," Ferris said. "And what will happen to our groundwater then?"

One of the fastest-growing cities in the Phoenix area is Buckeye, which has plans to nearly triple its population by 2030. According to its 2020 water resources plan, 27 master-planned communities are proposed in Buckeye, which depends primarily on groundwater. If all the proposed developments are fully built, the city's population, now 110,000, would skyrocket to about 872,000.

In the area Ferris visited, construction has begun on the giant development called Teravalis, where the developers plan to build the equivalent of a new city, complete with more than 1,200 acres of commercial development.

State water regulators have granted approvals to allow an initial portion of the project to move forward. But in other nearby areas of Buckeye, state officials have sent letters to builders putting some approvals on hold while they study whether there is enough groundwater for all the long-term demands.

"It's hard for me to imagine wall-to-wall homes out here," Ferris said, standing on the gravel shoulder of the Sun Valley Parkway, which runs across miles of undeveloped land.

Nearby, the Central Arizona Project snakes through the desert, filled with Colorado River water. The CAP Canal was built between 1973 and 1993, bringing water that has enabled

THERE ARE about 120 golf courses in the Coachella Valley, including this one in the Trilogy La Quinta community. They account for 18% of the area's water use.



Desert suburbia is growing. Arizona's groundwater can't keep up. Our video:



growth. But its supply came with low-priority water rights that made it vulnerable to cuts in a shortage.

The Phoenix metropolitan area's population has more than doubled since 1990, expanding from 2.2 million to about 4.9 million people. Subdivisions have been built on former farmlands as development has expanded across the Salt River Valley, also called the Valley of the Sun.

Ferris, a lawyer and former director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources, helped draft the state's 1980 Groundwater Management Act, intended to address overpumping and has since regulated groundwater use in urban areas.

Water from the CAP Canal has enabled cities to pump less from wells. For years, they have banked some of the imported Colorado River water underground by routing it to basins where it percolates down to aquifers.

The state requires that new developments around Phoenix and other urban areas have a 100-year "assured water supply," based on a calculation that allows for groundwater to be pumped down to a level 1,000 feet underground. Changes by the Legislature and regulators in the 1990s cleared the way for subdivisions to rely on groundwater as an assured water supply.

Since then, a groundwater replenishment district has been charged with securing water and using it to recharge aquifers, creating an accounting system. The problem with this system, Ferris said, is that groundwater has been overallocated, allowing for excessive pumping in some areas.

Ferris said she thinks the current rules are no longer adequate, especially with much less imported water available to recharge groundwater.

In recent years, Arizona has received about 36% of its water from the Colorado River. The river has long been severely overallocated, and its flows have shrunk dramatically during 23 years of megadrought intensified by global warming.

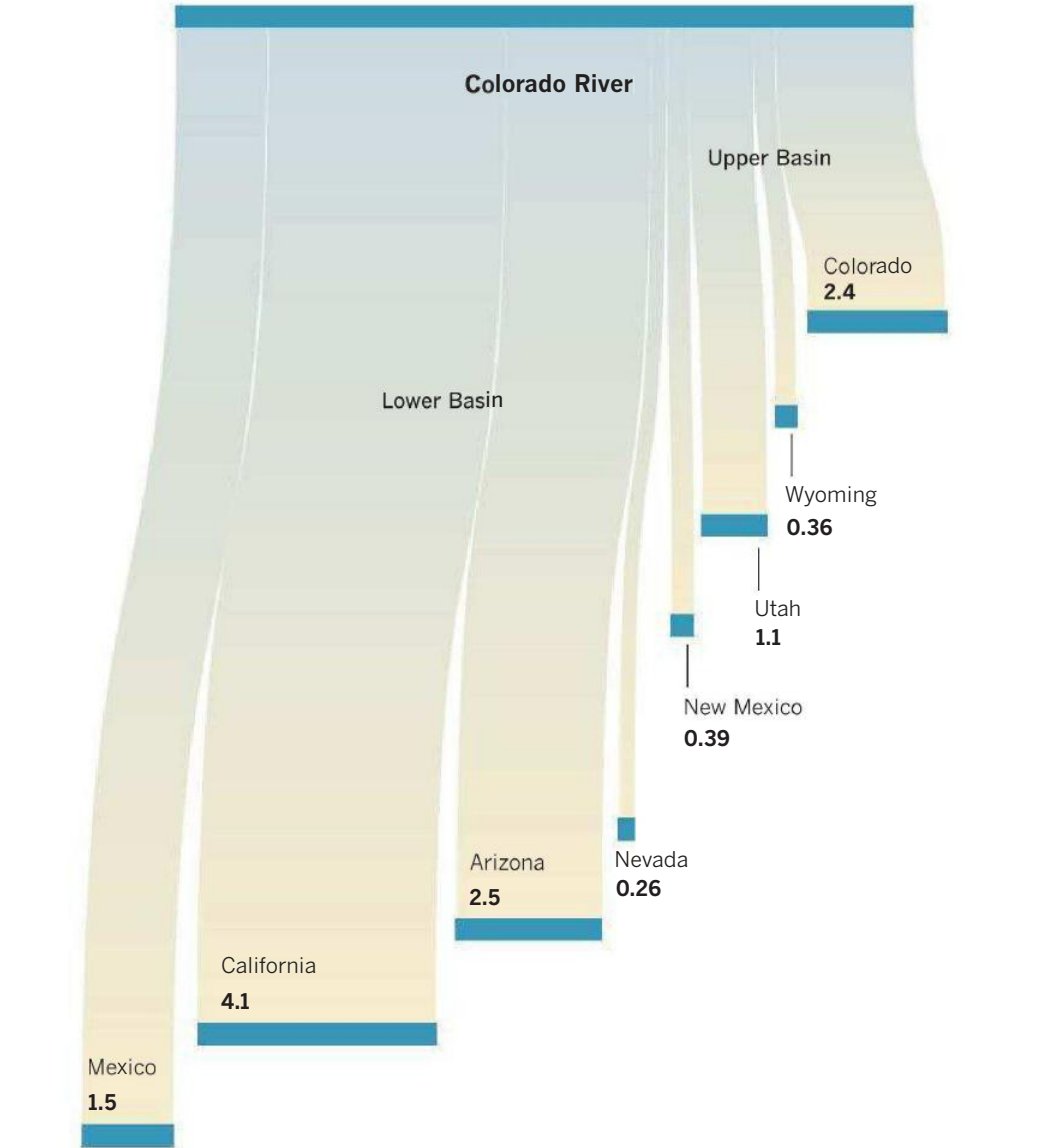
The river's largest reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, now sit nearly three-fourths empty. Federal officials have warned there is a real danger the reservoirs could drop so low by 2025 that water would no longer flow past Hoover Dam to Arizona, California and Mexico.

Ferris said Arizona now needs to

Where Colorado River water goes

In 2020, U.S. states used more than 11 million acre-feet of Colorado River water, while Mexico used about 1.5 million acre-feet.

Water use in millions of acre-feet



Not charted is an estimated 1.8 million acre-feet of water that was lost to evaporation from major reservoirs in 2020. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation consumptive use figures SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times

plan for years with little or no Colorado River water. She said she feels sad and angry that federal and state water managers failed to act sooner to address the shortage.

Alongside the river's decline, the Southwest is undergoing a parallel crisis of groundwater depletion. Scientists found in a 2014 study, using measurements from NASA satellites, that pumping depleted more than 40 million acre-feet of groundwater in the Colorado River Basin over nine years, about 1½ times the maximum capacity of Lake Mead.

"Our research has shown that the groundwater in the lower basin has been disappearing nearly seven times faster than the combined water losses from Lakes Powell and Mead," said Jay Famiglietti, a hydrology professor and executive director of the University of Saskatchewan's Global Institute for Water Security. "Groundwater losses of that magnitude are literally an existential threat to desert cities like Phoenix and Tucson."

Arizona's allocation of Colorado River water delivered through the CAP Canal will be cut by more than a third this year. Some Arizona farmers are losing their CAP supplies, while irrigation districts are drilling new state-funded wells.

Arizona's cities have yet to see major reductions. But that could soon change.

Ferris said she thinks growth should happen in areas where sufficient water is available, and from multiple sources.

The city of Peoria, northwest of Phoenix, is one example of an area with a variety of sources, including the Colorado River, the Salt and Verde rivers and recycled wastewater. Since 1996, the city has been banking water underground, storing treated wastewater effluent and a portion of its Colorado River water.

The city is now drilling wells to pump out some of those supplies.

"Even if the Colorado River went away completely, we expect to have enough water banked underground to last us for years," said Cape Powers, Peoria's water services director. "We'll continue to prepare for whatever comes our way."

Some cities are maneuvering in other ways, reaching outside the Phoenix area to secure water.

The growing Phoenix suburb of Queen Creek recently won approval for a controversial \$22-million deal to buy water rights from an investment company that will leave farmland dry in the community of Cibola, next to the Colorado River.

Buckeye has a substantial amount of groundwater locally and plans to seek additional water that could be brought in from other areas, said Terry Lowe, the city's director of water resources.

For the planned 37,000-acre community Teravalis, the developers have two existing water approvals, called certificates of assured water supply, to build about 7,000 homes, and plan to seek approvals to build more. The developers plan to pump groundwater from the aquifer beneath the property, which lies in the Hassayampa River watershed.

"It's one of the most plentiful aquifer basins in the state of Arizona. So we feel pretty good about that," said Heath Melton, regional president for the Howard Hughes Corp. "We feel like we're in a really good place."

Melton said the community will conserve water by having low-water-use plants and fixtures, and will use recycled wastewater for outdoor irrigation and to recharge the aquifer.

In the Hassayampa watershed in Buckeye, state water regulators have been working on an updated analysis of the groundwater basin. In letters to some other developers in the area, they have warned that although their report is not yet complete, they have "information indicating that the proposed subdivision's estimated groundwater demand for 100 years is likely not met when considered with other existing uses and approved demands in the area."

The Arizona Department of Water Resources similarly announced in 2019 that projections showed insufficient groundwater available for all the planned developments in Pinal County, between Phoenix and Tucson.



Native tribes push to protect 'living spirit'

BY IAN JAMES
IN FORT MOHAVE, ARIZ.

ON A BLUFF overlooking the Lower Colorado River Valley, the ground bears an image of two giant figures. Known as the Twins, these ancient figures are revered by members of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, who say they show their people's deep connection to the land and the river.

"This is a reminder of who we are," said Nora McDowell, an elder and former chairperson of the tribe. "This is our home. This is what the Creator gave us."

These and other geoglyphs adorn the desert along the lower reaches of the Colorado River, where Indigenous people flourished long before Europeans set foot in North America. The Mojave say their traditional name is Aha Makav, meaning the People of the River.

In their beliefs, their place of origin lies to the northwest at Avi Kwa Ame, also called Spirit Mountain.

Their ancestors taught them that the Creator made the river and the plants and animals, and put the people here to protect it all.

As a girl, McDowell enjoyed spending summer days at the river, where she waded, played among the tules and admired the tadpoles. She said people here feel a spiritual connection to the river, “that we’re all part of it and we all come from it.”

“It is a living spirit as far as the tribe is concerned. It gives life,” McDowell said. “It really needs to be treated differently.”

Centuries ago, the river swelled with seasonal floods, filling the valley. The people fished in the water and farmed on the silty floodplain, growing crops such as corn and squash. They saw the river and its water as the heart of life, something that belonged to no one.

That began to change in the mid-1800s as white settlers moved west, appropriating land and water.

The American authorities wanted the tribe’s members to move farther south, but they resisted. The tribe saw the establishment of a U.S. military outpost at a river crossing, and eventually the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation was created along the river, encompassing lands in Nevada, Arizona and California.

The fort later became a boarding school, where children were forced to assimilate and adopt English names.

When representatives of seven states signed the Colorado River Compact in 1922, the agreement included only a brief mention that nothing in the compact “shall be construed as affecting the obligations of the United States of America to Indian tribes.”

It wasn’t until 1924 that Congress extended U.S. citizenship to Native Americans by passing the Indian Citizenship Act. And for decades, leaders of the tribe struggled to secure their water rights.

In the 1963 Supreme Court case *Arizona vs. California*, which settled a dispute over Colorado River water, the federal government intervened to assert that the Fort Mojave Tribe and four other reservations along the river held federally reserved water rights. The court’s decision established a standard for quantifying those rights. And in a 1989 ruling, the Supreme Court finally approved settlements for the water rights of the Fort Mojave and Colorado River reservations.

McDowell, who was the tribe’s elected leader at the time, attended the Supreme Court proceedings and celebrated the end of the long struggle, which her father, Sanford McDowell, had also helped lead years before as a member of the Tribal Council.

“We had to fight hard, and we sacrificed a lot to get the rights that we do have,” Nora McDowell said.

The tribe is entitled to divert about 132,000 acre-feet per year, and uses the water to irrigate fields of alfalfa and other crops, while also pumping from wells to supply communities, two golf courses and two casinos.

McDowell serves among the leaders of a coalition called the Water & Tribes Initiative. She and others have advocated for tribes to be included in regional Colorado River talks where they previously were largely excluded.

“Hopefully, we will have a seat at the table,” McDowell said. “We should definitely be there.”

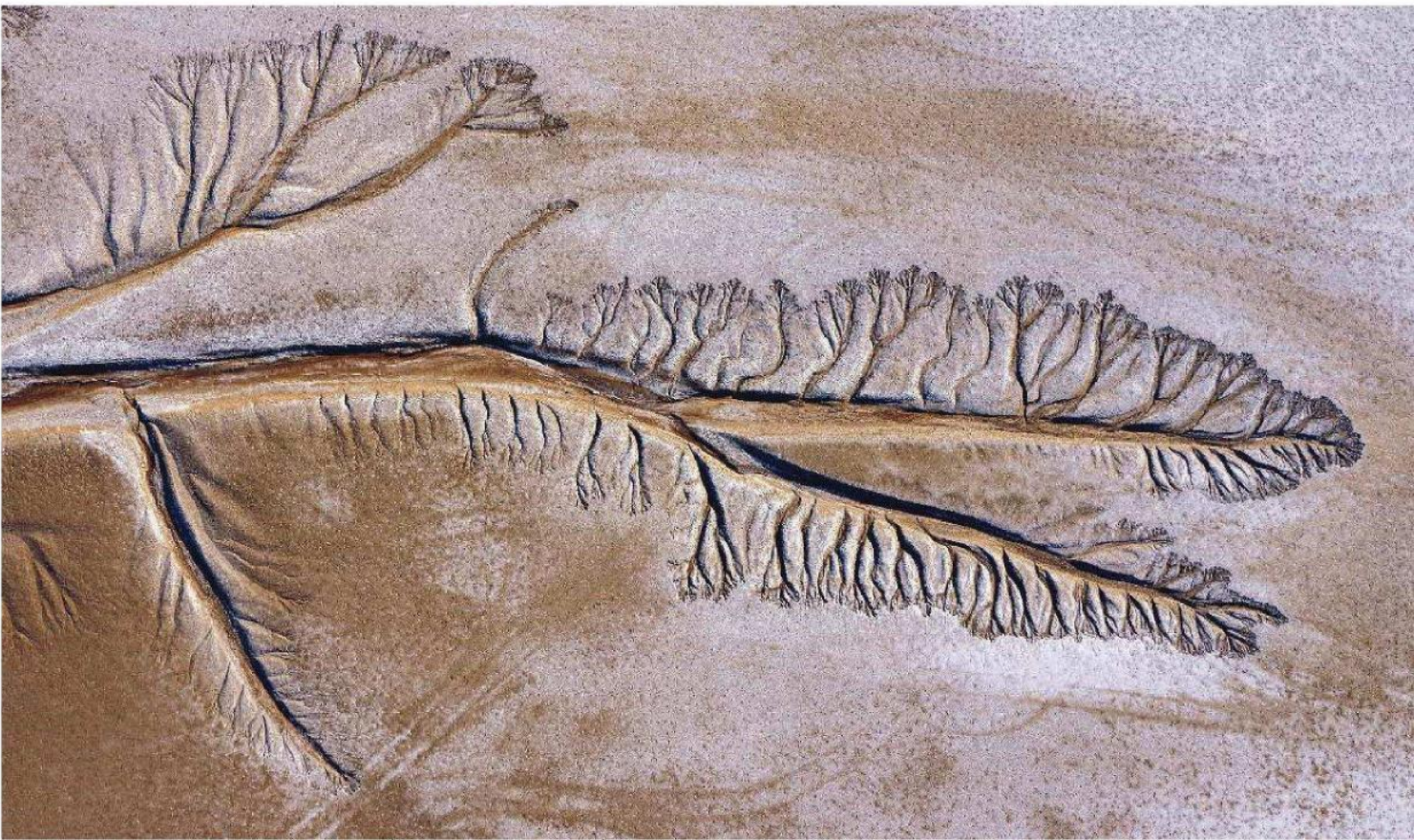
There are 30 federally recognized tribes in the Colorado River Basin. Tribes have established rights to roughly one-fourth of the river’s average supply. But 11 of the tribes still have unresolved water-rights claims.

On many reservations, people continue to live with serious water-infrastructure deficiencies. In the Navajo Nation, an estimated 30% or more of people live in homes without running water. In Hopi communities, many people have tap water contaminated with toxic arsenic.

Even with water now scarcer than ever, McDowell said, the federal government has an obligation to ensure the remaining tribes’ water rights are finally affirmed, and to ensure resources for basic water infrastructure. “They shouldn’t have to wait any longer,” she said. “It’s a human right.”

Some tribes that have substantial water apportionments, such as the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona, have stepped forward with offers to reduce water use in exchange for compensation. Leaders of the Colorado River Indian Tribes recently secured passage of federal legislation that allows them to lease a portion of their water to other areas.

That bill was signed by President



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

Biden along with other legislation benefiting Arizona tribes, including a water-rights settlement for the Hualapai Tribe, which will receive water from the river and \$312 million for water infrastructure.

Leaders of the Fort Mojave Tribe say they plan to continue using their water on their lands. They say their parents and grandparents told them that land without water is nothing. But the older generations also stressed the river’s importance as much more than a water supply.

“The old people used to say, if you go down to the river and you just sit there, the river will talk to you. Because it’s a living spirit,” said Paul Jackson, a tribal elder and cultural artist.

One morning, McDowell walked down to the water’s edge with Linda Otero, the director of the Aha Makav Cultural Society.

The river here runs in a channel enclosed in stretches of rocky riprap barriers, which were built decades ago after floods washed out homes. But near the ruins of the old fort, natural riverbanks remain.

Otero said that when she was growing up, she remembers the river was much wider and deeper. She would spend summers swimming.

“You just dived in there and it was so deep,” Otero said, standing on the bank. “Now, it’s like a stream.”

McDowell said she worries the river could keep declining and potentially run dry. She said that along with climate change and the overuse of the river, an underlying problem is the mindset of treating the water as property. “Nobody should own that river, but the way they did it a hundred years ago, that’s the story and the legacy that we live with,” McDowell said.

She said she believes in the rights of nature, that the river should have its own right to exist.

“We don’t treat it like a commodity, because we know what the river is, and what it gives us is life,” McDowell said.

McDowell said restrictions need

TIDES have sculpted the shores near the Colorado River’s mouth in Ejido Indiviso, Mexico. For decades, so much water has been diverted that the river seldom meets the sea.

to be placed on water use, and the way the river is managed and used needs to be rethought. She said she’s hopeful that people will be able to change course before it’s too late.

“If we keep operating it the way we are, and we keep demanding the uses of it and treating it like a commodity, it’s going to do what it’s doing right now,” McDowell said. “Something’s got to change. And people got to make that change happen.”

At river’s end, calls for ‘water revolution’

BY IAN JAMES
IN LOS ALGODONES, MEXICO

WHEN THE Colorado River reaches the U.S.-Mexico border, it pushes up against Morelos Dam. Nearly all the remaining water is shunted aside into an immense canal and flows toward the farmlands and cities of Baja California.

South of the dam, the last of the river disappears in the desert.

The sandy riverbed meanders on through fields of wheat, hay, cotton and vegetables, and curves past the town of San Luis Rio Colorado, where for years little or no water has flowed beneath its bridge.

Mexico is entitled to receive 1.5 million acre-feet of water per year under a 1944 treaty. But in recent agreements with the U.S., Mexico has also agreed to take part in reductions when there is a shortage.

Last year, Mexico’s share was cut by 5%. This year, it will lose 7% of its water.

A group of farmers met recently at the office of the National Water Commission in Mexicali to hear from government officials and experts about what the reductions mean, and to discuss ways of conserving. Miguel Ángel Rodríguez Todd, the agency’s regional director, spoke to the group.

“The Colorado River Basin is facing an extraordinary drought, which affects both the United States and Mexico,” Rodríguez told the farmers.

He said climate change is shrinking the river at its source, and that requires efforts to adapt.

“We must strive to improve water management,” Rodríguez said. “We have to improve and move towards efficiency.”

The workshop covered topics including measuring flows and switching crops to save water.

“We have to begin to act,” said Carlos de la Parra, who leads the environmental nonprofit group *Restauramos El Colorado*. He told the farmers that if the shortage continues to worsen, even larger cuts may come, and they will need to adapt.

His group is one of six organizations in a coalition called *Raise the River*, which focuses on restoring flows in the Colorado River Delta.

More than a century ago, the river’s delta spread across 1.9 million acres of wetlands and forests. The conservationist Aldo Leopold, who canoed through the delta in 1922, described it as “a hundred green lagoons” and said he paddled through waters “of a deep emerald hue.” He described it as an oasis that teemed with fish, birds, beavers, deer and jaguars.

In the years after his visit, the river was dammed and its waters were sent flowing in canals to farms and cities.

For decades, so much water has been diverted that the river seldom meets the sea. Much of the delta has shriveled to stretches of dry riverbed, with only small remnants of its wetlands surviving.

Restauramos El Colorado manages one of three habitat restoration areas in the delta, where native trees that were planted six years ago have grown into a forest that drapes the wetland in shade.

Last spring, a stream of water was released from a canal and flowed into the wetland, restoring a stretch of river where previously there had been miles of desert sand. The water was released for a second straight year as part of an agreement between the Mexican and U.S. governments and with support from envi-

ronmental groups.

After the pulses of water, De la Parra and his colleagues have seen vegetation flourish along the river channel. Biologists have counted about 120 species of birds. And motion-activated wildlife cameras have captured images of beavers swimming and gnawing on tree trunks.

De la Parra and others say the efforts in the delta have been a resounding success, showing that even small amounts of water can be used to revive ecosystems that were largely destroyed decades ago. De la Parra said he believes it’s crucial that the restoration work continue. But although the conservation groups have water rights to maintain some wetlands, the river’s decline poses challenges for their efforts.

The river’s crisis also presents a pivotal moment for farms and cities to adapt, De la Parra said.

“I’m hoping that we can really understand that crisis is not something that we ought to waste,” he said. “We need to use it to thrust ourselves into a different model.”

For cities, De la Parra said, that means initiatives such as recycling wastewater, capturing stormwater and probably investing in building a new desalination plant in Baja California.

For farmers, he said, there are opportunities to save water by installing efficient irrigation systems and moving away from thirsty crops like alfalfa to ones that use less water.

“It is a water revolution that needs to happen,” De la Parra said.

He said he’s confident people can improve their livelihoods while using less and “embracing this water revolution.” He’s also optimistic future generations can have a river delta with a functioning ecosystem.

In June, the water that was released brought back a flowing stretch of river for about 40 miles in the lower delta. The water eventually reached the Gulf of California during high tide.

The flowing river attracted attention. Beside a road, where the riverbed was transformed into a wide pond, families began coming to relax on the weekends and children waded in the water.

Angela Melendez, who works for the conservation group *Sonoran Institute*, said she felt excited and emotional seeing the river come back.

She said it hurts “when our environment is degraded and hurt and exploited.” When the river doesn’t reach the sea, she said, “it’s like if one of your veins didn’t reach the heart.”

Most of the time, the estuary is starved of a river. The shores near the river’s mouth have long been sculpted by the incoming and outgoing tides, which have left branching treelike patterns imprinted in the sands.

The Native Cucapá people who live in the delta have traditionally depended on fishing. The Cucapá still push wooden boats into the estuary to fish for corvina. But there are fewer fish than there used to be.

Hilda Hurtado Valenzuela, a 68-year-old tribal member and president of a Cucapá fishing cooperative, said that when she was growing up, the river always had water. Willows stood along the banks, and her mother would bend a wire to make a hook, baiting it with a piece of tortilla.

“There were a lot of fish because the river always brought water,” Hurtado said. “Not anymore. Now it doesn’t have anything.”

She said the freshwater flowing into the saltwater creates vital habitat for fish to reproduce in the estuary. Without that water flowing in, she said, the fish have suffered.

“The Colorado River Delta should have water,” Hurtado said, sitting outside her home in the town of El Indiviso. “Fishing for the Cucapá people is what we live from, how we feed ourselves, but it’s also part of our culture. The Colorado River is part of our culture.”

She said she worries a time will come when the remaining fish disappear because there is no water flowing.

“We would like to see a river with life,” she said. “We need the Colorado River’s water for the survival of the fish, but also for the survival of the Cucapá people.”

So much could be saved, she said, if even a small amount of water were set aside to let the river be a river again, and flow to its end.



CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

TWO ANCIENT geoglyphs, each about 20 feet long, are revered by members of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, who say they show their connection to the land and the river.